



AFGHANISTAN REPORT

NO. 36

MARCH 1987

**CRISIS & CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM
THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES
SECTOR F-5/2, P. O. BOX 1173,
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CRISIS AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM (CCAT) AFGHANISTAN

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1. The Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team comprises of leading academicians, strategists, researchers and policy analysts interested in the study of international relations. The members of this team meet periodically in groups; one team is devoted to the study of the Afghan crisis and conflict. In the light of carefully monitored information each group reviews current developments in its respective conflict area, and offers various policy options for consideration. While the Institute of Strategic Studies provides the forum, coordinates research and publishes the findings of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team, it does not necessarily share the views expressed by the team members whose participation in this group is in their individual capacity.

2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor



AFGHANISTAN REPORT MARCH 1987

IJAZ S. GILANI
NASEEM RIZVI

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ACRONYMS

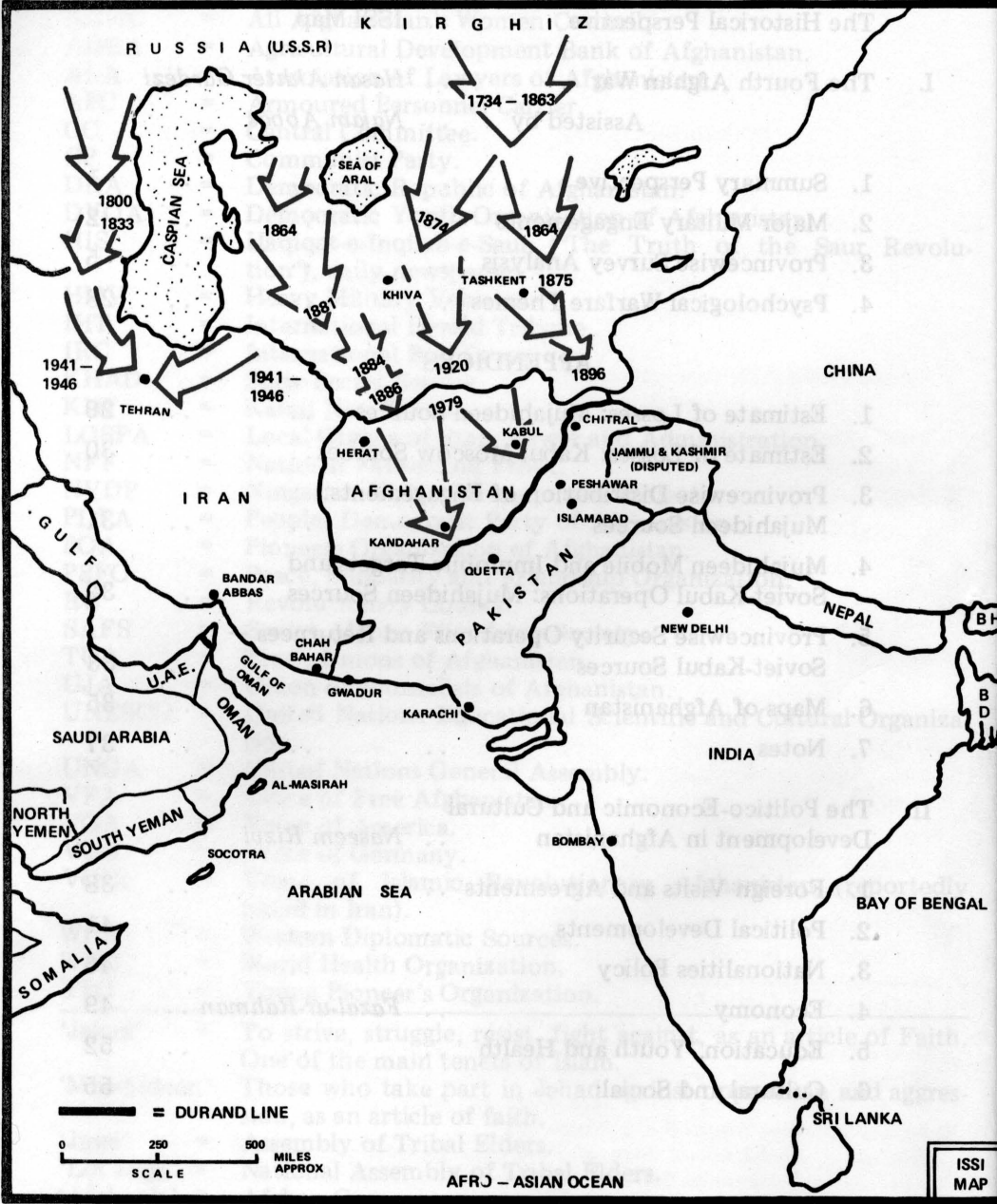
AAP	=	Agency Afghan Press (Mujahideen).
AAPSO	=	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.
AAWC	=	All Afghanistan's Women Council.
ADBA	=	Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan.
ALA	=	Association of Lawyers of Afghanistan.
APC	=	Armoured Personnel Carrier.
CC	=	Central Committee.
CP	=	Communist Party.
DRA	=	Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.
DYOA	=	Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.
HIS	=	Haqiqat-e-Inqilab-e-Saur ('The Truth of the Saur Revolution'), daily newspaper.
HMV	=	Heavy Military Vehicles.
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune.
IRC	=	International Red Cross.
KHAD	=	State Secret Service.
KNT	=	Kabul New Times.
LOSPA	=	Local Organs of State Power and Administration.
NFF	=	National Fatherland Front.
NVDP	=	Ningarhar Valley Development Project.
PDPA	=	Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.
POA	=	Pioneers Organization of Afghanistan.
PSFO	=	Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization.
RC	=	Revolutionary Council.
SAFS	=	Soviet Afghan Friendship Society.
TUA	=	Trade Unions of Afghanistan.
UJA	=	Union of Journalists of Afghanistan.
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
UNGA	=	United Nations General Assembly.
VFA	=	Voice of Free Afghanistan.
VOA	=	Voice of America.
VOG	=	Voice of Germany.
VOIR	=	Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (reportedly based in Iran).
WDS	=	Western Diplomatic Sources.
WHO	=	World Health Organization.
YPO	=	Young Pioneer's Organization.
'Jehad'	=	To strive, struggle, resist, fight against, as an article of Faith. One of the main tenets of Islam.
'Mujahideen'	=	Those who take part in Jihad against oppression and aggression, as an article of faith.
'Jirga'	=	Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Loi Jirga'	=	National Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Afghanis'	=	Afghan Currency.

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I.— THE FOURTH AFGHAN WAR

1 — SUMMARY PERSPECTIVE (see map Appendix 6)

Our statistical indicators show that since the beginning of the Afghan War the monthly Combat Frequency rose to an ever high number of 488 in March 1987. These 488 engagements comprised 155 Mujahideen mobile and 184 immobile targets and 149 Soviet-Kabul operations.

The geographic scope as well as the Combat Frequency of the Afghan War, as per Mujahideen sources, has progressively risen. Weather has not proved an impediment to stall Mujahideen activity, especially in the Northern provinces.

Month	Operations		Total Operations
	Mujahideen	Soviet-Kabul	
March 1985	138	72	210
March 1986	271	60	331
March 1987	339	149	488

Highest military activity was reported in Parwan, Qandahar and Faryab followed by extensive clashes in Paktiya, Ningarhar and Jozjan. 12 provincial capitals beside the capital Kabul witnessed urban conflict. Military engagements were reported in all 9 provinces along the Soviet border.

In this month too, we continued to receive reports of instances where the Mujahideen damaged/destroyed aircraft one after another at close intervals and locations, section 3 carries detail of such cases.

Atrocities

55 people died when Soviet-Kabul jets dropped bombs at Rabat Bazar in Nimruz. Over 60 civilians were reported killed by air bombardments and ground shellings in rural areas of Qandahar province.

Soviet jets bombarded Shinkai village in Ghazni province destroying 20 houses. Air raids caused heavy loss of human lives in Chamkani, Lizha, Matta Khan etc.

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad, in the preparation of this part of the monthly report.

Psychological Warfare

Number of returnees claimed by Radio Kabul:

Year	Number
1984	17,993
1985	16,909
1986	20,200
Total in 3 years	55,102

The total number of returnees as announced in Radio Kabul broadcasts for last three years were 55,102. However, Najib, in his interview to Soviet television said to, "date 35,000 refugees have returned to their homeland compared within the preceding 8 years, a total of 37,000 persons returned to Afghanistan". (interview to Moscow TV, 19 March, 1987).

2 — MAJOR MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

Mujahideen Air Defence

As no predictable pattern emerges from the figures quoted below. We may not therefore attribute Soviet-Kabul air losses during recent months only to Mujahideen access to some sophisticated ground-to-air systems/any particular phenomena. See table for the past nine months stating the Soviet-Kabul Air losses according to reports received from all over Afghanistan:

Soviet-Kabul Air Losses

Month	Aircraft	Helicopters	Total
July 1986	17	26	43
August	10	14	24
September	11	16	27
October	26	37	63
November	46	31	77
December	13	13	26
January 1987	26	15	41
February	22	20	42
March	18	38	56

ENGAGEMENTS ALONG PAKISTAN BORDER

Qandahar

The Mujahideen stepped up their activity in Qandahar city and other areas of the province to the extent that an Izvestia correspondent was shown the violations of ceasefire by the "opposition groups". The Soviet correspondent was told by officials that Mujahideen had continued to fire at different targets in Qandahar almost daily. The Kabul regime is also trying to set up new security posts around Qandahar and curb Mujahideens access to the city.

Mujahideen blocked movement of a Soviet-Kabul contingent (sent to reinforce local security belt) by closing the Pashmol route in February. Later Soviet-Kabul force launched air-cum-ground attack on Mujahideen positions. Soviet-built jets heavily bombarded the area.

In what is thought to be one of the biggest attacks on an airfield in Afghanistan, Mujahideen activated delaying-time-devices that fired some 280 rockets at the Qandahar Airport before dawn on March 15. Several posts, ammunition and fuel dumps and installations were damaged, beside 9 helicopters and 5 aircraft.

Ghazni

The Soviet-Kabul forces launched attacks at Mujahideen centres in Ghazni. The severe shelling and bombing inflicted heavy casualties on the Mujahideen. A Mujahid Commander from Ghazni says that Soviet-Kabul forces mounted pressure in order to break Mujahideen's will for a settlement of their choice.

Paktika

Sur Qamar encirclement: Mujahideen encircled a large Soviet-Kabul force heading towards Urgoon at Sur Qamar cutting off its further progress to the isolated cantonment. The Soviet-Kabul aim seemed to reinforce Urgoon with men and supplies.

Paktiya

Soviet-Kabul forces continued air strikes against Mujahideen positions. Pitched battles continued for control of strategic routes situated from Zazi to Tani. Soviet jets bombed the Mujahideen centres in Lizha, Zhawar and Dargai near the besieged Khost cantonment in late February. Later, air raids took place in Noshi and Wali area early this month. Helicopters bombed Matta Khan area in mid-March. 25 Mujahideen were killed and 58 wounded.

Yet another unsuccessful attempt was made by Soviet-Kabul

forces to regain the control of some Mujahideen positions in Sanakai and Dargai. In combined attacks in Sanakai sector, the Mujahideen destroyed several enemy positions. They also captured three posts south of Sanakai which posed a threat to Mujahideen movement.

Ningarhar

In Ningarhar too, the Mujahideen captured a number of security posts, seizing sizeable quantities of arms and ammunition in Uchin. Heavy aerial bombing prevented their further advance to the adjacent town.

A mechanized Soviet-Kabul force set out from Jalalabad apparently in a bid to capture Hisarak to:

- (i) Choke Mujahideen supply lines and
- (ii) Remove hurdles in Soviet-Kabul mobility in the area.

Mujahideen mined the road some 40 km from Jalalabad inflicting material losses to the advancing force.

Large-scale construction activity lately witnessed in Paktiya and Ningarhar provinces raised speculations that this might mean Soviet-Kabul were developing new permanent military camps facilities close to Pakistani border on some important routes. Late March reports revealed hectic construction activity in Chamkani and Shehr-e-Nau areas where additional troops were being brought in. In these areas some important Mujahideen centres are also located.

ENGAGEMENTS ALONG SOVIET BORDER

Kunduz

Soviet aircraft conducted air strikes, north of Kunduz. These air raids were followed by a large and prolonged search and destroy campaign in some areas. Earlier the Mujahideen had rocket shelled Soviet territory across the Oxus river. Gunship helicopters rocketted the area and commando troops were dropped. Very high casualties were reported from several villages bordering the Soviet Union.

Put together, Soviet-Kabul troops conducted 18 air and ground operations in Faryab, 16 in Jozjan followed by 13 in Kunduz province whereas the Mujahideen conducted 99 operations in all.

Cross-Oxus Operation: Section 3 carries detail of such operations which the Mujahideen conducted in Takhar-Kunduz area. Another notable operation was Mujahideen's capture of 2 district places in Badakhshan, which borders Soviet Union.

ENGAGEMENTS ALONG IRANIAN BORDER

Mujahideen conducted a number of attacks in Qezel Islam area in Herat province inflicting losses on security posts. They also recovered some 50 Afghan children "detained" at a camp. They were being taken to the Soviet Union for training and brain-washing.

Air raid by Afghan jets at the bustling Rabat Bazar in Nimruz province left 45 civilians dead and 140 wounded.

3 — PROVINCEWISE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Provinces Bordering Pakistan

Nimruz (also bordering Iran)

Mujahideen sources: Soviet-made planes heavily bombarded Rabat Bazar, a busy market place in the Baluch majority province of Nimruz on March 24. The attack was conducted about 9 in the morning when the bazar was thronged with shoppers. At least 55 persons were killed and another about 140 injured. Ten of the killed were Mujahideen and the rest common citizens living in a liberated area close the Iranian border. There were women and children among the killed. Eight Soviet bombers took part in the operation. They bombed and straffed people indiscriminately. Many of the injured were removed to the Iranian city of Zahidan for treatment.

VOA: Helicopter-borne Soviet-Kabul troops attacked two Mujahideen controlled villages in Nimruz province last week. The attacking force was accompanied by bomber planes. The Mujahideen reportedly put up stiff resistance and the enemy was forced to retreat. Thirty civilians, including women and children were killed in bombardment. Local commanders of the resistance say they themselves lost four while the enemy suffered 15 casualties (Radio Report: Urdu: 7 March, 1987).*

Radio Moscow: Hundreds of families of Afghans living in refugee camps in neighbouring countries have returned to Nimruz province (6 March, 1987).

Hilmand

Mujahideen sources: 22 February: Mujahideen attack a military convoy near Grishik. Fourteen Soviet-Kabul troops killed and a tank and a truck destroyed. Mujahideen also lost 3 fighters. Another 7 Mujahideen were injured by helicopters escorting the convoy.

*The dates given in parenthesis are the actual broadcasts.

Ten Soviet-Kabul troops were killed in a shoot out near Lashkargah, headquarters of Hilmand province. Four Mujahideen also killed during the clash.

2 March: Mujahideen capture 10 Soviet-Kabul troops during a clash in Nad-e-Ali town, 20 km from Lashkargah.

During an ambush Mujahideen capture 15 mortar pieces from a Soviet-Kabul military convoy near Lashkargah.

5 March: Mujahideen destroy a tank of a mobile Soviet-Kabul forces at a place called Saifoon.

Radio Tehran: During operations around Lashkarband, the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries inflicted heavy losses on industrial installations of the Kabul regime. They destroyed a power house near Lashkarband town. They also killed 4 communist troops in a post in the area (13 March, 1987).

The Afghan Mujahideen killed 10 enemy troops and destroyed some tanks in a battle with Soviet-Kabul forces around Lashkargah (16 March, 1987).

VOA: Afghan resistance sources claim as many as 300 Soviet and Afghan soldiers and 150 Mujahideen civilians have been killed in a major battle in the South Western Province of Hilmand. VOA's Alan Pessin reports from Islamabad the fighting earlier this month is reported to have lasted for a week around the provincial capital.

Resistance commanders report that 50 groups of Mujahideen joined forces to repulse a Soviet and Afghan Army attack aimed at expanding the security belt around Hilmand provincial capital. The resistance commanders say as many as 4,000 Soviet and Afghan troops, 400 tanks and several helicopters and aeroplanes were involved.

The resistance claims to have destroyed 45 tanks and trucks in the fighting and one aircraft on the ground during a rocket attack on the provincial airport. The resistance says the Soviet and Afghan forces withdrew to the provincial capital when the Mujahideen ambushed a convoy of reinforcement enroute to the battlefield.

The report from resistance commanders could not be confirmed but an elderly man who fled to Pakistan after the fighting told a similar story. He says there was a big battle with hundreds of casualties and the authorities commandeered civilian trucks and tractors to remove the dead and wounded (Radio Report: English: 29 March, 1987).

Qandahar

Mujahideen sources: 22 February: Mujahideen attack an army post in Dand area, killing or injuring 16 Soviet-Kabul troops a tank destroyed.

A jeep blasted in Qandahar city by landmine.

26 February: Fighting breaks out simultaneously in several localities in Qandahar city, including Herat Bazar, Kabul Bazar and Shaheed Anwar Chock. Mujahideen used rockets and kalashnikov rifles. Fighting continued for 3 hours.

27 February: Soviet-Kabul forces composed of more than a hundred tanks and APCs and trucks launches an offensive on the "Hamoond Front". "Tens" of MiGs supported ground forces. The "surrounding circle" of the operation was 200 km.

1, 2, 3 March: Fighting continues on the Hamood Front. On March 3 Soviet-Kabul troops attacked Mujahideen positions near the town of Arghistan. The attack was repulsed.

4 March: Mujahideen attack militia headquarters at Baba Sahib, Arghandab town.

5 March: Mujahideen fire rockets at the Teachers Training Institute complex, currently being used as army camp, in Qandahar city.

Mujahideen claimed to have destroyed 5 jet fighters/bombers and 9 helicopters at the Qandahar airport on 13 March. An ammunition dump was also destroyed. Mujahideen sources said they fired 300 rockets at the airport.

On the following day, they destroyed a tank in Maiwand area on the Qandahar-Herat highway. They also attacked a security post in the Mallajat area on the same day.

On March 15, Mujahideen attacked a security post in Dand, Western suburbs of Qandahar city, killing 5 soldiers and inflicting injuries to several others.

VOIR: Twelve Soviet tanks were destroyed while more than 100 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or injured in fierce battles between Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul troops in Qandahar province in the recent past (9 March, 1987).

Mujahideen launched attacks on military posts of Soviet-Kabul troops in the suburbs of Qandahar city. In these attacks, 8 militiamen were killed and an officer of the Kabul regime captured. Another report says that a military convoy of the Soviet-Kabul troops was attacked by the Mujahideen in Bagh-e-Haji Nazar Jan area a few days ago. In this attack 4 Soviet tanks are destroyed (26 March, 1987).

Afghan Mujahideen launched an attack on a military base of Soviet troops in Darinaf (ph) area in Qandahar province on the 27th of Hoot. Mujahideen launched an attack on the positions of Soviet-Kabul troops inside Qandahar city on the last day of Hoot and destroyed an ammunition depot (28 March, 1987).

A source close to the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan said that

Afghanistan has been turned into a place of testing new Soviet arms. According to reports chemical weapons have also been used against the innocent people of Afghanistan (31 March, 1987).

Radio Tehran: Afghan Mujahideen repulsed a big attack of Communist troops killing more than 100 government troops. They destroyed 4 tanks (16 March, 1987).

Afghan Mujahideen attacked the bases and garrisons of the Communist forces in Qandahar (and other provinces) and a large number of enemy troops were killed. They also destroyed tanks, armoured cars and helicopters (23 March, 1987).

Fierce fighting is continuing between Afghan Mujahideen and government troops in Qandahar city (31 March, 1987).

Radio Riyadh: Twelve Soviet-Kabul tanks were blown up by landmines laid by Afghan Mujahideen. One hundred Soviet-Kabul troops were killed from 27th February to 3rd March in Qandahar province (7 March, 1987).

BBC: Guerillas in Afghanistan have claimed a big success in a raid on a government airbase near Qandahar city. As George Arney reports the guerillas say they crippled 14 aircraft in a heavy rocket attack.

Travellers arriving in Pakistan from Qandahar confirm that the attack took place. They could still see thick smoke rising from the airbase on Friday morning even though the rocket strike occurred the previous night. People living in nearby villages were unable to sleep because of noise. According to a letter signed by 6 guerillas commanders representing different groups, 280 rockets of 170 millimetre calibre were fired at the airbase and a nearby Afghan army garrison. The rockets were activated by delaying timing device enabling the guerillas to get away from the area. The guerillas commanders claimed that 9 helicopters and 5 MiG jets were either destroyed or damaged. They claimed to have inflicted dozens of casualties, both among the Soviet and Afghan troops and among Soviet families living on the base (Newsreel English: 15 March, 1987).

VOA: Guerillas of the Afghan resistance movement say Soviet and Afghan government forces have launched an offensive against rebel positions in Southern Afghanistan. Afghan troops led by the Russians, attacked rebel strongholds in Shin Narei south of Qandahar on 26th ultimo. Sources said fighting continued for three days in a mountain ravine in which both sides suffered heavy losses (8 March, 1987).

Commanders from three different Afghan resistance groups claim their combined forces destroyed or damaged 9 Afghan and Soviet helicopters and 5 jet fighters in rocket attacks on Friday. VOA's Alan Pessin reports from Islamabad that the resistance attack was reportedly

directed at the airport of Afghanistan's second largest city of Qandahar (Radio Report: English: 14 March, 1987).

Radio Kabul: As a result of an explosion of a mine which was planted by counter-revolutionary extremists in Eidgah gate in Qandahar city, four persons are martyred and a number of others injured. This heinous act of the counter-revolutionary elements shows that the enemies of our country's prosperity are greatly perturbed over the success of the national reconciliation in the country (News Pushto: 3 March, 1987).

Radio Moscow: The Moscow daily Izvestia has published an article of its special correspondent in Afghanistan. The correspondent writes that in the Army headquarters he was shown the proofs of violations of unilateral ceasefire by the opposition groups. Particularly in Qandahar province the counter-revolutionaries continued firing almost daily on district headquarters and villages. The leaders of 7 counter-revolutionary groups based in Pakistan have rejected the ceasefire and the offer of talks with the Kabul government. The leaders also rejected the national reconciliation policy. In Pakistan, the Afghan refugees are living in a miserable condition (Commentary Urdu: 27 March, 1987).

Zabul

Mujahideen sources: An army camp was attacked in Meezan subdivision on February 25. Fourteen Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and 5 vehicles destroyed.

VOIR: Afghan Mujahideen attacked the headquarters of communist forces in Meezan area of Kabul province, killing 15 communists and destroying 5 vehicles (15 March, 1987).

BBC: Afghanistan's Soviet-backed Government said today 10 children were killed by a landmine planted by Western-backed rebels. Kabul radio monitored in Islamabad said the mine exploded on a farm near Kalat, Zabul, on Tuesday. The official radio said the mine was of US manufacture.

The rebels and the communist-led government frequently trade charges of atrocities against civilians.

The report was issued a week after Pakistan charged Afghan planes carried out a series of raids on villages and refugee camps across the border. Pakistani officials say up to 90 people were killed and 230 injured in the attacks, but Kabul has denied responsibility.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry made a formal protest to Pakistan today saying its planes made four reconnaissance flights into Afghan airspace yesterday (PTR: FP: 5 March, 1987).

Radio Kabul: As a result of a mine explosion last Tuesday 10

children under 12 years of age were killed and two others injured in an agricultural farm in Qalat city (5 March, 1987).

Radio Moscow: Ten children were killed and two others injured in Qalat city when a US-made bomb exploded. Bakhtar news agency says that with these activities the counter-revolutionary elements want to damage the process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan (6 March, 1987).

Ghazni

Mujahideen sources: 12 February: Mujahideen attack Muqur district centre.

20-22 February: Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul post in the vicinity of Numan. The post fell on February 22. Mujahideen captured 6 tanks, and plenty of arms and ammunition and rations. Sixty militiamen capitulated to Mujahideen.

Soviet aircraft bombard the villages of Shinkai. Twenty houses were destroyed and 3 villagers killed by bombardment.

25 February: A tank and another vehicle of a mobile force were destroyed by landmines at Nani near Muqar.

27 February: Mujahideen attack the sub-divisional headquarters of Muqar with rockets and mortar guns. They also captured the local chief of Khad. A helicopter was shot down about 2 km from Ghazni airfield.

A mobile force of Soviet-Kabul troops escorting a party of 'ruling party' members were waylaid near the township of Sholgar on March 7. A tank and another vehicle were destroyed by rockets. The ruling party bid to hold a public meeting at Sholgar in support of the Kabul government was thus frustrated.

Other reports received on March 19, 20 and 26 speak of Soviet-Kabul attacks on Mujahideen positions in Jaghori sub-division and Shatam in Sholgar. Soviet-Kabul troops suffered severe losses during these attacks: but, the Mujahideen had to pull back from their 'centre' in Shatam under heavy pressure. In a day-long bloody encounter at Shatam Mujahideen lost 24. Another 58 were injured. The losses suffered by the invading force could not be ascertained.

VOIR: A military convoy of Soviet-Kabul troops was attacked by Mujahideen in Gilan area of Ghazni province resulting in heavy casualties to the communists. Two Soviet tanks were destroyed in the operation (22 March, 1987).

Radio Tehran: The Freedom Fighters killed 15 soldiers and destroyed many tanks in an attack in Ghazni province (20 March, 1987).

Radio Kabul: Eight armed counter-revolutionary groups have

joined national reconciliation programme after giving up subversive activities on persuasion by the members of National Reconciliation Commission in Ghazni province (4 March, 1987).

Paktika

Mujahideen sources: 3 March: Mujahideen attack a Soviet-Kabul convoy near Khairabad Cantonment. A tank destroyed and 10 Soviet-Kabul troops killed.

4 March: A Soviet-Kabul motorized caravan was attacked at Sheikhlū. Eleven enemy vehicles captured. The trucks which had earlier been commandeered from local truckers were returned to their owners.

10 March: Soviet-Kabul troops coming from Kabul, Gardez and Ghazni assemble at Saroza and together set forth for the beleaguered cantonment of Urgoon to reinforce it. Mujahideen cut off their progress at Sur Kamer.

Paktiya

Mujahideen sources: 17 February: A Soviet-Kabul helicopter hit by Mujahideen at the Khost airstrip.

18 February: A helicopter gunship shot down in Chamkani.

19 February: Soviet aircraft bombard Mujahideen centre in Zazi. One of the planes was seen crashing near Azra village.

24, 28 February: Soviet aircraft bombard Mujahideen centres in Lizha, Zawar and Dargai area.

4 March: Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul security posts in Noshi and Wali areas. Soviet aircraft bombard Noshi and Wali areas.

9 March: Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul positions in Bak sub-district killing 20 militiamen.

16 March: Mujahideen shot down an Soviet-Kabul helicopter near Nari, Hasan Khail District.

18 March: Mujahideen ambush a military convoy in Mohammed Khel area and seize a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Soviet helicopters attacked a party of Mujahideen near Matta Khan. As a result of this attack 25 Mujahideen were killed and another 58 were injured on March 18.

Another report said that after a week long struggle the Mujahideen had captured 7 Soviet-Kabul security posts near Sinkai on March 23. At least 50 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or injured and 200, including 18 officers, surrendered to them. Mujahideen captured 12 machine-guns, 270 klashnikov rifles and a quantity of ammunition.

According to reports received on March 26 hundreds of conscripts were digging new bunkers at the Chamkani cantonment. Likewise

thousands of fresh troops were being transported to the cantonments of Chamkani and Shehr-e-Nau cantonments. Observers conjectured that Soviet-Kabul commanders were planning large scale ground operations in the Khost region bordering on Pakistan. They noted that Soviet-Kabul had lately increased the tempo of their aerial activity in this area, concentrating particularly on the Zhawar and Jehadwal centres of Mujahideen.

VOIR: A Soviet MiG aircraft which intended to bombard the positions of the Mujahideen in Zazi area of Pakiya province was shot down by the Mujahideen (7 March, 1987).

Radio Tehran: A Soviet-Kabul aircraft and a helicopter were shot down in Pakiya (10 March, 1987).

Seven enemy troops were killed and 5 tanks and 5 armoured vehicles were destroyed by Mujahideen in Pakiya province (23 March, 1987).

PPI: Two Russian bombers and a helicopter were shot down by Afghan Mujahideen in Zazi area on Thursday (March 26 when they were returning to their airbases after carrying out bombing raids on Afghan refugees targets in Teri Mengal of Kurram Agency. According to Al-Bunyan news service, the aircraft were hit with missiles while the helicopter was downed with anti-aircraft guns (PPI-Peshawar: 28 March, 1987).

BBC: Afghan guerillas claim to have carried out successful attacks on 4 posts of Afghan troops in southern Afghanistan near Pakistani border. They claim that they either destroyed or captured them. The posts were in Sanagn area lying between Pakistani border and the Afghan garrison town of Khost (25 March, 1987).

Radio Kabul: A passenger aircraft of Afghanistan with 40 passengers on board was shot down by Pakistani F-16 aircraft in Pakiya province at about 1100 hrs yesterday while it was on a flight from Kabul to Khost. As confirmed by the higher Pakistani authorities the plane was attacked by F-16 aircraft with air-to-air missiles.

Pakistani Charge de' Affairs in Afghanistan was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to receive a protest note about this criminal act. He was told that this inhuman and aggressive act of the Pakistani authorities indicates their policy of aggression and hostility towards the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (News Pushto: 31 March, 1987).

Ningarhar

Mujahideen sources: 23 February: Two Soviet-Kabul helicopters were shot down in Shinwar.

26 February: Mujahideen shell Soviet-Kabul positions in Goshta

district.

27 February: Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul garrison in Sultan Poor-e-Ulya with 107 mm rockets.

3 March: A helicopter shot down (somewhere in Ningarhar).

On March 11, a large force of more than 100 tanks and armoured vehicles set out from Jalalabad and Surkh Rud for the liberated town of Hisarak, 70 kilometres west of Jalalabad on the highway leading to Kabul. After 7 days the armoured units reached a place near Gandmak, 40 km from Jalalabad. As the Mujahideen had mined the road at this point Soviet-Kabul forces had 4 tanks and armoured vehicles blown up. They lost another tank near the village of Hashim Khel and two near Sheikh Misri by rocket attacks of the Mujahideen. The Soviet-Kabul forces retreated having lost at least 36 soldiers. Another about 60 were injured. A number of houses were destroyed by Soviet-Kabul bombardment at Sheikh Misri, Hashim Khel, Surkhhab and Gandmak.

In the meantime, the Mujahideen destroyed an APC east of Sarhad Dari security post on March 14. The same group repeatedly attacked security posts at Girdi Ghous on March 19.

On March 18, Mujahideen shot down an aeroplane in the suburbs of Jalalabad, killing all the 16 people on board. They had earlier launched a ground attack on Jalalabad airport.

VOIR: Mujahideen conducted a number of attacks against Soviet-Kabul troops in Ningarhar province during the last few days killing a number of troops and destroying some tanks and military vehicles. They attacked military posts in the suburbs of Shinwar Loi Wolesswali early this month. Thirty-five communist troops were killed while two others were made captive by Afghan Muslim fighters (News Persian: 4 March, 1987).

Mujahideen recently shot down an aircraft of Kabul regime in the outskirts of Jalalabad in which all the 16 passengers on board were killed. The same source said that Jalalabad airport was also attacked with rockets causing heavy damage to the airport (17 March, 1987).

Mujahideen shot down four helicopter gunships of the Kabul Communist regime in Ningarhar province (25 March, 1987).

Afghan Mujahideen foiled a major offensive of Soviet-Kabul troops in Hisarak area of Ningarhar recently (30 March, 1987).

Radio Tehran: In their struggle against the usurper of their country, the Afghan Mujahideen repulsed an attack of the Soviet-Afghan forces and compelled them to retreat in Hisarak area of Ningarhar province (28 March, 1987).

Radio Bangladesh: Soviet forces are constructing a large underground military base in the desert of Torkham-Jalalabad highway. The

construction work is being supervised by a Deputy Commander of the Soviet forces. Chinese news agency Xinhua reported that officials of the Kabul government are kept away from the base (News Urdu: 19 March, 1987).

Radio Kabul: The process of the return of our compatriots to their homeland is gaining momentum under the policy of national reconciliation (30 March, 1987).

Radio Moscow: The population of Ningarhar warmly welcomed 17 Afghan families who responded to the Government's call for establishing nationwide peace and returned to their native localities after long years of exile in Pakistan. The working people, the public and business circles actively joined this noble task. The news agency Bakh-tar reports that the Association of Private Industrialists in Afghanistan donated one million Afghanis (currency) to fund the aid to former refugees. Two public organisations of the country, the National Front and the Organisation of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship sent messages to the UN Secretary General voicing support to the Afghan Government policy of national reconciliation and expressing the hope that the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva would be successful (3 March, 1987).

Kunar

Mujahideen sources: 14 February: Mujahideen struck a security post. A Soviet-Kabul patrol lost 12 men when they stepped over mine fields laid by Mujahideen.

Soviet-made aircraft bombarded Mujahideen positions near Bari Kot in Upper Kunar valley on February 24. On March 2, Mujahideen attacked security posts in Sarkani district and Narang sub-district. Three militiamen were killed and an armoured vehicle destroyed. They fired 107 mm rockets and mortar on a security posts in Badail Valley, killing 5 and wounding 3 others. Soviet-Kabul soldiers retaliated with artillery fire and aerial bombardment on Mujahideen.

A helicopter gunship was shot down on March 23 near Aman Kot in Scheigal Valley, where earlier, a clash took place between Mujahideen and Kabul troops.

VOIR: Another two enemy helicopters were shot down by Mujahideen anti-aircraft guns in Kunar province. The aircraft were bombarding Mujahideen positions (News Pushto: 25 March, 1987).

Radio Tehran: Soviet troops including special services and commandos equipped with tanks and other sophisticated weapons have started moving towards the Kunar Valley close to Pakistani border. It is apprehended fierce fighting will take place in this area between the Soviet troops and Mujahideen (News Urdu: 21, March, 1987).

Radio Kabul: Fifteen persons have been released from Kunar Jail towards fulfilment of the National Reconciliation Programme (1 March, 1987).

Provinces Bordering Soviet Union

Badakhshan (also bordering Pakistan)

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen shot down 2 helicopters at Faizabad in the first week of March.

During the second week of March Mujahideen destroyed 3 security posts near the township of Darwaz along the Ammu River. At least 20 Kabuli troops were killed. Mujahideen also fired rockets at the ruling party office in Shah Sabz area where a Parchami leader was killed alongwith 8 others.

Takhar

Mujahideen sources: Thousands of Soviet troops have been brought into the Afghan provinces of Takhar and Kunduz after Mujahideen shelled Soviet security posts across the Ammu river in Soviet Tajakistan. Earlier reports had said that there was widespread dissatisfaction among the Muslims of Tajikistan. The Soviet authorities recently arrested their religious leader Maulana Abdullah Saeedoon on the plea that he was propagating for the establishment of an Islamic State.

VOIR: Afghan Mujahideen attacked a military convoy in Takhar province on the 23rd of the last month. Three Soviet tanks were destroyed. Several soldiers were killed. The Secretary of the People's Democratic Party was also injured. Thirteen soldiers of the Kabul regime joined the Freedom Fighters.

Another report from Takhar province said that the Mujahideen carried out a raid on a military post of Soviet-Kabul troops on the 10th of the last month. In the attack 20 communist troops were killed and 8 injured. A huge quantity of arms was seized by the Mujahideen (6 March, 1987).

VOA: The sources report from the northeastern Afghanistan province of Takhar that the Mujahideen captured a district headquarters during the beginning of the current month situated only 10 kilometres from the Soviet border. The sources said that the Mujahideen held higher communist officials captive. As in the case of other reports about the war in Afghanistan, these reports could not be verified from impartial sources. However, these reports have been supplied by usually reliable sources. It seems from the reports that all the 7 groups of the

resistance movement are cooperating and Western and Pakistani analysts noted in particular this aspect during the recent months. The experts say that the Afghan government's conciliatory efforts spearheaded by the Soviet Union, had encouraged greater political unity and military alliance among the resistance groups (Radio Report: Urdu: 25 March, 1987).

A rocket attack launched by Afghan resistance fighters on targets in border area of the Soviet Union has resulted in heavy reprisals from the Soviets (24 March, 1987).

The resistance movement's news agency, Afghan press, has reported that keeping in view Mujahideen's successes in the northern Afghan provinces of Takhar and Kunduz in the beginning of March, 30,000 fresh Soviet troops have been deployed. Diplomats say that during the last 10 days the Mujahideen had shot down 14 planes in the north and east of Kabul and in eastern and southern parts of the country (31 March, 1987).

Radio Kabul: A 70-member armed group led by Haji Mohammad Jan gave up their armed activities in the outskirts of Takhar and joined the national reconciliation process (30 March, 1987).

Kunduz

Mujahideen sources: 18 February: Mujahideen attack a security post in Aliabad town near Kunduz city. A tank was hit with rocket.

19 February: Soviet-Kabul troops attack Mujahideen but had to meet a retreat.

20 February: A 'Soviet citizen' kidnapped and delivered to the "Council of Northern authorities".

22 February: A Soviet-Kabul force enters Imam Sahib town to conscript youngmen for duty in the armed forces. The force was protected by tanks and helicopters. Mujahideen attacked the intruders. Using missiles they shot down 2 helicopters and destroyed 2 tanks.

23 February: Mujahideen attack Bakhmal Kucha village security post, killing 4 soldiers.

24 February: Mujahideen fired rockets on a security post in Kunduz city.

On March 3, Mujahideen attacked a Soviet Army post in Aliabad district. Eight Russians were killed and many others injured. Two days later the Soviets captured 7 elders of a village. After being severely beaten up, the old men were summarily executed.

The Soviets launched a large-scale offensive in Kunduz province and the district of Imam Sahib was bombed by "tens" of helicopter gunships on March 14. The helicopters came from bases inside the

Soviet Union. They also brought in commando units. A report received on 31 March said: "Several villages close to the border have been totally destroyed. Casualties among the civilians are very high. Hundreds of men women and children have been martyred. More than 1,500 troops from the Soviet Union have taken up positions in the provincial headquarters Kunduz".

Radio Tehran: Afghan Muslim revolutionaries during operations in Baghlan, Paktiya and Kunduz provinces killed a large number of Soviet-Kabul troops and destroyed tanks, and military equipment.

Radio Cairo: Western diplomatic sources in New Delhi said today that northern regions of Afghanistan lately witnesses severe battles resulting in 200 casualties of Soviet-Kabul troops (News Arabic: 10 March, 1987).

BBC: Afghan guerilla sources have claimed that the Soviet Air Force has launched an offensive against the guerilla bases near Afghanistan's northern border. This offensive is said to have been launched some 11 days ago and was in retaliation against the rocket attacks carried out by the Afghan guerillas on the Soviet territory. In a despatch from Islamabad George Arney reports that the details of the operation by the Soviet army in northern Kunduz area are not yet clear. But two separate guerilla groups said in Peshawar that both civilians and guerillas suffered heavy casualties. A large number of Soviet troops is reported to have crossed the river Ammu by helicopters and bombed the villages in Imam Sahib area north of Kunduz. The Soviet troops cordoned off several villages. They were searching for the guerillas who had carried out rocket attacks on the Soviet territory a week ago (Sairbeen Urdu: 24 March, 1987).

VOG: The Russians responded by bombing villages in Kunduz province (24 March, 1987).

Radio Kabul: Eighteen of our compatriots who had been indulging in armed activities in the outskirts of Kunduz laid down their arms and joined the ranks of the Afghan Party and government (News Pushto: 21 March, 1987).

Baghlan

Mujahideen sources: Soviet armoured units attacked Mujahideen centres in Khawaja Khan, Mulla Zai and Qaiser Khel area in the provincial headquarters of Baghlan city on February 20. After a day long clash the invaders were forced to retreat.

They were believed to have carried back a number of dead and many more injured. The Mujahideen also shot down a helicopter.

There was a clash between some Kabuli soldiers and their Russian

supervisors at Pule Khumri town situated along the Salang highway on February 22. Mujahideen attacked a security post in Waseer area near Baghlan city on March 5.

On March 11 Mujahideen launched a mortar attack on a Soviet military camp near Khenjan town on Salang Highway. A tank and an Oil tanker were destroyed.

Radio Tehran: Afghan Mujahideen attacked a Soviet-Kabul army camp in Khan Jan area of Baghlan province, north on 11th of this month. They ignited four buildings and destroyed two tanks and some petrol tankers. In another operation in Wazir area Mujahideen captured a security post (News Urdu: 21 March, 1987).

BBC: In another attack in Baghlan province 32 miners were taken prisoners by the guerillas (11 March, 1987).

Radio Kabul: Ten families of our compatriots consisting of 105 persons returned to their homes in Baghlan province from exile (30 March, 1987).

Samangan

Mujahideen sources: 22 February: Mujahideen attack a military convoy in Kotal Bad area of Doaab sub-division. Five government troops were killed and 10 joined Mujahideen ranks.

13-16 March: One hundred and eighteen Afghan soldiers defected to Mujahideen. They came from three different security posts in Samangan province bordering on the Soviet Union.

On March 15 Soviet-Kabul forces and Mujahideen clashed near Samangan headquarters of Aiback. A tank was destroyed with rocket fire. The same night Mujahideen attacked a Soviet camp at Bagh-e-Jahan Numa near Khullam town on the highway leading to the Soviet Union. Fifteen Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and a tank destroyed.

VOIR: One hundred and eighteen troops of Kabul regime deployed in a military cantonment in Samangan province near the Soviet border joined Afghan Mujahideen along with their arms and ammunition. The Afghan Mujahideen attacked a military post of the Soviet-Kabul troops in Samangan a few days ago. Four Soviet-Kabul troops were killed. A tank was also destroyed (31 March, 1987).

Balkh

Mujahideen sources: 10 February: Mujahideen attack a security post in Charsang area. Seven soldiers captured.

12 February: A jet shot down in Mazar city.

20 February: A helicopter shot down near Mazar city.

21 February: A jeep carrying two Soviet pilots, an Afghan regi-

mental commander and his assistant were blow up in Mazar city by a bomb planted in the vehicle.

22 February: Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul posts in the villages of Arghoon and Bahauddin in Balkh district.

24 February: Mujahideen capture 3 trucks on Mazar-Hairatan Road.

3 March: Mujahideen destroy a power "distribution centre" near Mazar.

On March 24 Mujahideen crossed the Ammu River into Soviet controlled Central Asia and attacked enemy positions there. Six Russian soldiers were killed. The Mujahideen returned to their base area safely.

Jozjan

Mujahideen sources: 14 February: Mujahideen attack a Soviet-Kabul security post in Baqawi village near Sherberghan city. Two Soviet-Kabul soldiers were killed and seven injured. Three surrendered to Mujahideen.

4 March: Soviet-Kabul forces attack Mujahideen positions in Char-Kool village.

Faryab

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul troops fought a running 11 day battle in the Sheereen Tagab district beginning the first week of March. Soviet-made planes bombed hundred villages and Mujahideen positions as a result of which a large number of houses were razed to ground. Mujahideen destroyed 4 tanks and 3 trucks. Twenty-two soldiers were captured with their weapons. On their part, the Mujahideen lost 7 killed. Another 16 Mujahideen were injured.

VOIR: Twelve Soviet-Kabul soldiers were killed and 64 taken prisoner during a Muslim Freedom Fighters attack on 5 government posts in Sheereen Tagab area (8 March, 1987).

VOA: Afghan resistance fighters have reported two recent incidents of heavy fighting near the Afghan-Soviet border. VOA's Alan Possin reports that the resistance claims to have killed about 120 Soviet and Afghan government troops, while losing 3 of their own men (23 March, 1987).

Badghis

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen fired rockets on an army camp in Chowr Mach town killing 10 Soviet troops on February 16. A tank was also destroyed. According to another report received on March 21,

Mujahideen destroyed two jets in Bala Murghab district.

5 March: Mujahideen attack security posts near Kalat-e-Barichi and Kalat-e-Purbuzha, north of Islam Qala. Fifteen soldiers captured.

8 March: Mujahideen shell a security post in the outskirts of Herat city. Some vehicles destroyed.

VOIR: In fierce fighting between Afghan Mujahideen and Soviet-Kabul troops, 28 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and 10 others injured in Herat province last week.

The Afghan Mujahideen carried out a bomb attack on the office of the Afghan Intelligence Department inside Herat city on the 5th of the current month. Twelve KHAD activists were killed.

Three Soviets were killed when Mujahideen attacked Soviet position in Herat.

Mujahideen launched attacks on a military post on the outskirts of Herat city killing 4 regime troops.

Mujahideen attacked a military convoy on Herat-Qandahar highway. In this attack three officers and 7 soldiers were killed (News Persian: 18 March, 1987).

The Mujahideen have stepped up their activities against the security posts of Soviet-Kabul troops in Zindajan Wolessi of Herat Province. In these attacks 10 enemy troops were killed and 25 others were injured (News Pushto: 27 March, 1987).

Radio Tehran: Muslim Freedom Fighters attacked an army camp in Islam Qala district and killed 35 Soviet-Kabul troops. They also freed 50 Mujahideen from the custody of Soviet-Kabul forces (16 March, 1987).

IRNA-Afghan Muslim revolutionaries shot down a warplane and helicopter gunship of the Soviet-Afghan forces over the past two weeks, announced Afghan sources here.

Fifteen Soviet-Afghan forces were killed and wounded when Afghan Mujahideen attacked their position in Sheikhan, Herat province on the occasion of the anniversary of the Kabul uprising against the puppet regime on March 16. One Afghan Mujahid was martyred and another wounded in the operations (24 March, 1987).

The Muslim Afghan revolutionaries have shot down two aircraft and a helicopter gunship of the Soviet forces in Herat province (News Urdu: 24 March, 1987).

VOA: It appears from the latest reports received from the Afghan resistance that the offensive launched by the Mujahideen on government posts along the border with Iran in western Afghanistan last month is still continuing. Irfan Ghazi of the VOA says that 60 militiamen have been killed in fighting around two important posts this week

(7 March, 1987).

According to Western diplomats, it seems that the Soviet-backed Afghan government has now realised their failure in persuading five million Afghan refugees to return to their homeland from Pakistan and Iran. The diplomatic sources say that the government figure of the Afghan refugees returning to their homeland is less than one per cent to the total number of refugees living in foreign countries. Nevertheless, Afghan government media is playing up stories regarding the welcome and rehabilitation of those returning. On March 23 Kabul TV showed a reception camp at Islam Qala near the Iranian border. The viewers noted that the camp was empty, more or less (31 March, 1987).

Radio Moscow: Another 30 families of Afghan refugees returned to Herat province from Iran. In about two months after the national reconciliation programme was announced, tens of thousands of people have returned home. Many rebel groups have given up fighting and taken the side of a popular government (News English: 22 March, 1987).

Provinces Bordering Iran

Farah (Also bordering Soviet Union)

Mujahideen sources: 10 February: A helicopter gunship shot down in Lashkargah.

12 February: A helicopter gunship shot down in Gazerghah.

15 February: A helicopter shot down in Farah city.

27 February: Mujahideen attack a military camp near the sub-divisional headquarters of Farsi bordering on Iran. A number of Afghan and Russian soldiers were killed. Mujahideen lost two men.

Radio Tehran: Afghan Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul positions in northwestern Badghis province and destroyed 6 tanks and military vehicles besides killing 30 enemy troops. Mujahideen captured 7 Soviet-Kabul troops (News Urdu: 30 March, 1987).

VOA: Afghan Mujahideen have reported two events of fierce fighting near the Afghan-Soviet border. VOA Islamabad correspondent Alan Possin reports:—

The Afghan Mujahideen have claimed that during fighting 120 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed while they reported their own loss of life at 30. The Mujahideen reported they captured the district headquarters of Morghab, 15 kilometres from the Soviet border at the end of February. They claimed that 70 Afghan troops defected to the Mujahideen side and helped them in capturing the city. The Mujahideen said a number of local officials fled and crossed the border into Soviet Union. It is reported that these

officials came back with an armoured Soviet contingent and more than a dozen helicopters. The Mujahideen before retreating fought the Soviet troops for several days. Mujahideen commanders said that as a result of intensive bombardment by the Soviet planes more than 100 people were killed and a large number of houses destroyed (25 March, 1987).

Herat (Also bordering Soviet Union)

Mujahideen sources: 13 February: Two Soviet-Kabul helicopters shot down in the outskirts of Herat city.

19 February: Mujahideen attack a military convoy with rockets near Shin Dand Airport. Five armoured vehicles and a truck destroyed.

27 February: Mujahideen destroy a tank in Karackh sub-division.

3 March: Mujahideen attack Soviet-Kabul security posts near Qezel Islam. Two tanks destroyed. Among the casualties were two Mujahideen killed and 12 injured. Seventy-five Soviet-Kabul troops killed. Fifty youths forcibly detained in a camp secured release during the operation. Mujahideen also attack a security post at Joynaw, north of Islam Qala.

On March 13, Mujahideen attacked a mobile military force in Farah Rud area. The rocket attack resulted in the killing of 8 Soviet-Kabul troops.

VOA: Resistance sources have reported air attacks on Mujahideen strongholds in Farah and Nimruz provinces. Soviet-made Afghan government aircraft bombarded Mujahideen headquarters in Farah province and killed and injured at least 8 Mujahideen (7 March, 1987).

Radio Kabul: A group of 160 armed insurgents who were active in Shindager area have accepted the Peace Programme and laid down their arms (News Baluchi: 4 March, 1987).

Radio Moscow: One hundred and fifty Afghan refugees returned to their homeland in Farah province from Iran. Local authorities have extended necessary help to them (8 March, 1987).

Central Afghanistan

Bamiyan

Mujahideen sources: 21 February: Two Soviet soldiers were killed in a Mujahideen attack in Bamiyan city.

22 February: Mujahideen attack a security post and Khad office in Mulla Alam village.

26 February: Mujahideen attack military cantonment in Bamiyan city. Nine Soviet soldiers and two Mujahideen were among the killed.

Four Mujahideen were captured by Soviet-Kabul security force.

On March 6-7, the Mujahideen renewed attacks on Bamiyan city. An ammunition depot blasted. Several Soviet-Kabul troops killed.

VIRA: Mujahideen inflicted deadly blows on Soviet-Kabul troops in Bamiyan province last month. A large part of the province is under the control of Mujahideen. Mujahideen have made Soviet-Kabul government transport insecure on the strategic highways which passes through Bamiyan. During attacks on military convoys a number of tanks and oil tankers were destroyed and many enemy troops killed (27 March, 1987).

Radio Tehran: Seven enemy troops were killed and 5 tanks and 5 armoured vehicles destroyed by Mujahideen in Bamiyan province (25 March, 1987).

Ghor

Radio Moscow: Another 50 Afghan refugees have returned to their homes in Ghor province in response to government call for a national reconciliation. A major armed anti-government unit has given up resistance voluntarily (News English: 30 March, 1987).

Uruzgan

Nil report from all sources.

Kabul and Adjacent Provinces

Kabul

Mujahideen sources: 1-3 March: Mujahideen fired rockets on military installations and living quarters of Soviet officers in and around Kabul city. Eighteen military vehicles were destroyed and building of a training centre damaged.

4 March: Mujahideen conduct rocket attack on Sarobi township west of Kabul.

On March 9, the Soviet and DRA launched combined ground and air attacks on Mujahideen positions in Jegdalak and Hessarak areas from three sides, namely Suroobi, Tezeen and Ningarhar. Hundreds of vehicles including APCs carried thousands of troops to the battlefield. Fighting continued for 6 days. Twenty armoured vehicles, one jet fighter and a helicopter were counted destroyed during the fighting. Over one hundred of Soviet-Kabul troops were believed to be killed. Mujahideen lost 13 fighters.

The Afghan freedom fighters destroyed an oil tanker in Koh-i-Safi area on March 13. The same day they smashed a military transport at

Khawaja Qila, Mir Bacha Kot sub-division. A tank was blown up by a mine planted in the Paghman suburb of Kabul.

VOIR: Mujahideen in the course of successful operations in Bagram area of Kabul province last week destroyed a helicopter and five military vehicles of the enemy troops.

Another report said that Soviet-Kabul troops in collaboration with the activists of KHAD launched attacks on the positions of Afghan Mujahideen in Paghman last month. The attacks were repulsed with losses (*News Persian*: 6 March, 1987).

Radio Tehran: The Muslim Afghan revolutionaries in an operation around the Bagram airport on March 5 shot down two helicopters and killed 20 communist troops.

In another operation in the same area on March 4 the Mujahideen shot down a Soviet-made aircraft.

Reports said that in a fierce clash the Mujahideen killed 25 Soviet-Kabul troops. In retaliation the Communist troops bombarded the area killing two Mujahideen (*News Urdu*: 12 March, 1987).

Seven enemy troops were killed by the Mujahideen in Kabul. They also destroyed 5 tanks and 5 armoured vehicles (23 March, 1987).

BBC: Anti-government guerillas in Afghanistan are reported to have scored a number of military successes north of the capital Kabul at the end of February and in early March. The reports from Western diplomats say a number of Afghan government posts have come under attack and that casualties were high. George Arney reports from Islamabad:

According to the diplomats, fighting erupted in the Shomali region north of Kabul at the end of the last month. They say that several Afghan army posts near the big airbase in Bagram and another near Kamagah were over-run. Four other posts in northern Shomali near Gulbahar were abandoned without a fight. The diplomats say that a convoy was ambushed north of the Salang Pass in the last week of February resulting in heavy casualties among Soviet and Afghan troops. However, they are not able to confirm a guerilla-report that an Afghan army transport plane was shot down one week ago as it was coming in to land. Guerillas claim that at least 15 people were killed (10 March, 1987).

A prominent intellectual Professor Hassan Karrar has been released in Kabul. He was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment for being involved in activities against the government, but was set free after completing half of his imprisonment term. Professor Karrar's continuous detention was a cause of embarrassment for the Afghan government and his release would be construed as part of government reconciliatory policy

(18 March, 1987).

VOA: Most Mujahideen in the north Paghman region have reached an informal ceasefire agreement with the Afghan Army's local command, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

The sources did not give total of the Mujahideen force which entered into a truce. The Afghan rebel parties based in Iran and Pakistan earlier collectively rejected Afghan leader Najibullah's six month unilateral ceasefire offer of last January 1. The offer was aimed at reaching a national reconciliation to enable the Soviet troops to withdraw and a national unity government with the Kabul regime's opponents to be set up.

This is the first time after the reported failure of the regime's call that a Mujahideen force of relatively volatile region has agreed to suspend fighting. Paghman, 25 kms (15 miles) from Kabul, witnessed some of the most devastating fighting last year (AFP: 24 March, 1987).

Western diplomats in Pakistan say Afghan resistance fighters have shot down at least 14 Soviet and Afghan government aircraft in the past 10 days. They did not identify the weapons used to down the helicopters and jets but the rebels are reportedly armed with sophisticated American-made Stinger missiles. Diplomatic sources also say security was stepped up in Kabul after two Soviet embassy guards were found missing. Mujahideen sources said the two men defected to the resistance. There is no independent confirmation of the report (News English: 31 March, 1987).

Radio Kabul: One hundred and ninety prisoners were released from the Central Jail of Pule Charkhi today (News Pushto: 3 March, 1987).

A secret hidout of the extremists has been raided near Paghman in Kabul province. Various types of bombs, including pen-bombs, plastic bombs, explosive material, cartridges, ground-to-ground rockets and mortars were recovered from the extremists (News Urdu: 11 March, 1987).

Radio Moscow: The Afghans who had left their homes after having been misled by hostile propaganda are returning home. To date, more than 35,000 people have returned to their homeland. Officials provide food and clothes and help shifting them from border areas to their homes (News Urdu: 26 March, 1987).

Parwan

Mujahideen sources: 24 February: A tank destroyed by a landmine planted by Mujahideen at Qila Nasro.

25 February: A helicopter shot down (somewhere) in Parwan

province. An oil tanker destroyed near Qarah Bagh town on Slang Highway.

In an offensive operation, February 26 to March 2, Soviet-Kabul forces attacked Mujahideen positions in Sofeyan and northern Bagram. The resistance using rockets and land-mines destroyed 19 tanks and killed over 100 troops.

Another report said that a Soviet aircraft and two helicopters were shot down at a place called Dosarka, 15 kilometres from Bagram military base on March 2.

On March 4, Mujahideen launched an attack against Soviet-Kabul positions around Gulbahar Textile mills complex at the mouth of Panjshir valley. The fighting started at 7 p.m. and continued till 5 p.m. on the following day. Soviet-Kabul troops pounded Mujahideen positions with long-range artillery and aircraft. Seven Mujahideen killed. Soviet-Kabul troops reportedly lost more than 100.

Also on March 4, Mujahideen launched a coordinated attack on Soviet-Kabul convoys and security posts on the Charikar-Malak section of the Salang Highway. More vehicles including tanks and trucks were destroyed and 40 soldiers killed.

A four-engine transport plane coming in to land at Bagram airbase was shot down by anti-aircraft gun fire on March 10.

A tank was destroyed by PRG7 fire near Chikal on Kabul-Parwan Highway on March 12.

On March 12, the Mujahideen attacked the Gulbahar Textile Complex killing 62 Soviet-Afghan troops. Two tanks also blown up. Another Soviet-Kabul tank was destroyed by rockets in Hamza Khail area on March 15.

The Mujahideen attacked a Soviet camp in Qala-i-Surkh, a report received on 31 March said.

VIRA: During their operations in Parwan province last month the Mujahideen attacked positions of Soviet-Kabul troops in Kabul Sangargar and Sardarra areas. In these attacks a large number of Soviet-Kabul troops were killed and injured (22 March, 1987).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen shot down an aircraft and a helicopter in Parwan province (15 March, 1987).

The Afghan Freedom Fighters attacked a post of the usurper Communist troops in Gulbahar province and killed a number of soldiers. After the operation, fighter aircraft of the Kabul regime bombarded the residential areas of Gulbahar as a result of which 20 Muslims were martyred (20 March, 1987).

Kapisa

Radio Tehran: Muslim Afghan revolutionaries in an operation in the Kapisa province destroyed 10 security posts of Soviet-Kabul troops and freed the area from their occupation. They also eliminated 3 posts of enemy troops in Sher Shah Sori and Nasir Khan areas and captured a large quantity of weapons (News Urdu: 8 March, 1987).

Laghman

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen shot down a Soviet-made helicopter gunship in the Nooristan Valley on February 24.

The same message said that Mujahideen had launched a rocket attack on the sub-divisional headquarters of Mangoo on February 24. Four government troops were killed and 10 injured. Five Mujahideen were also killed in the encounter.

VIRA: A helicopter gunship was shot down by Mujahideen in Nooristan Woleswali in Laghman province on the 4th of this month (News Pushto: 8 March, 1987).

Logar

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen eliminated two security posts in Kalingar Valley on March 7. Several Soviet-Kabul troops were killed.

On March 12, Mujahideen frustrated an attempt of Soviet-Kabul troops to 'block Mujahideen movement' in the Niazi area of Ali Shung sub-division. The invading force was pushed back after 5 hours fighting. Fourteen Soviet-Kabul troops were killed or injured. The Mujahideen also damaged a tank. The Soviet shelled the surrounding areas killing a number of civilians.

On the following day, the Mujahideen conducted attacks on security posts of Qila Faqir and Qila Sabzak.

Another report said that 13 Soviet 'experts' were killed during a Mujahideen assault on a copper mine in Logar province (date not mentioned).

Radio Tehran: Mujahideen repulsed an offensive carried out by the invading troops in the Logar province. Fourteen Communist troops were killed (26 March, 1987).

BBC: Western correspondents in Islamabad say that there has been a considerable increase in attacks by anti-government guerillas on economic targets in Afghanistan. They say that 13 Soviet mining experts were killed in a copper mine in Logar province (17 March, 1987).

Wardak

Mujahideen sources: Mujahideen attacked security posts of Maidan

Shahr on February 18 and 19, according to a message received on March 6. In a clash with Soviet-Kabul troops on February 21 in the same vicinity two Mujahideen were killed.

4 — PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE THEMES

Radio Kabul

Given below are the major Kabul Radio themes in March 1987 in descending order of recurrence:—

1. Projecting the plan of peace and reconciliation punctuated with call for general amnesty and appealing refugees to return.
2. Alleged foreign intervention in Afghanistan U.S. Western Media, Pakistan, China and Iran in particular.
3. Allegations against Pakistan government.
4. Highlighting refugees return and how it is being obstructed by Pakistani and Iranian regimes.
5. Projection to political negotiations importance of how much it depends on Islamabad.

Radio Moscow

Given below are the major Moscow media themes in March 1987 in descending order of recurrence:—

1. Highlighting the Kabul plan for peace and national reconciliation.
2. Alleged foreign intervention in and undeclared war against Afghanistan.
3. Projecting refugees' return and how it is being obstructed by Pakistan and Iran.
4. Pressing for political settlement of Afghan issue with emphasis on Kabul's stand on Geneva talks.
5. Criticism of Pakistan's acquisition of arms from Indo-Soviet perspective.

APPENDIX — 1

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN MARCH 1987 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Human Losses

Soviet Casualties	:	167 killed and	50 wounded
Kabul Casualties	:	787 killed and	487 wounded
Soviet-Kabul Casualties	:	534 killed and	183 wounded
Defections	:	401 Kabul troops defected and	525 captured
Mujahideen Casualties	:	234 killed and	312 wounded
Afghan Civilian Casualties	:	381 killed and	214 wounded

Material Losses

Soviet-Kabul Material Losses:—

Aircraft	18	LMGs	19	Security Posts	47
Helicopters	38	HMGs	42	Khad Offices	3
Tanks	113	Klashnikovs	540	PDPA res/off.	2
APCs	32	R. Launchers	14	Establishments	9
HMVs	62	Doshaka	5	Power House Line	1
Trucks	78	Rifles	427	Food Depots	1
Jeeps	28	Mortars	18	Military Workshops	2
Oil Tankers	5	Mun. Depot	4	Gas Supply Lines	2
Bunkers	18	Qty. of arms	9	Barrells of edible	
Truck laden with		Large no. of amm.		oil	125
fire wood	11	rounds		Communication	
Wireless Sets	49	Printing Press		centre	1
		building	1		

Mujahideen and Afghan Civilian Material Losses:—

Villages	9
Houses	72
Based/Hideouts	5
Rickshaws	3
Cycles	11
Motor Cycles	2
Various Arms and Ammunition	

APPENDIX — 2

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN MARCH 1987. RADIO KABUL SOURCES

Afghan Civilians killed by counter-revolutionaries: 11 killed and 6 wounded.

Returnees (those availing amnesty, voluntarily surrendering, changing allegiance and joining Soviet-Kabul ranks: 10, 751.

Mujahideen Material Losses: Various missiles; mortars; 3 different quantities of arms and ammunition; 3 bases/hideouts; various types of bombs including pen-bombs; plastic bombs; explosive material; cartridges; ground-to-ground rockets.

Prisoners released under present amnesty decree: 77.

Total released since 'ceasefire' announced: 4,000.

APPENDIX — 3

PROVINCEWISE ENGAGEMENTS IN MARCH 1987 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engage- ments	Provincial Capital	Engagements	
			Inside City	Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	1	Zaranj	—	—
Hilmand	7	Lashkargarh	—	1
Qandahar	59	Qandahar	11	1
Zabul	2	Kalat Gilzai	1	—
Ghazni	17	Ghazni	—	1
Paktika	13	Sharna	—	—
Paktiya	48	Gardez	—	—
Ningarhar	35	Jalalabad	2	—
Kunar	10	Chagha Sarai	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	13	Faizabad	3	—
Takhar	9	Taloqan	—	—
Kunduz	24	Kunduz	3	—
Baghlan	8	Baghlan	—	—
Samangan	12	Samangan	1	1
Balkh	13	Mazar Sharif	3	—
Jozjan	33	Shebergan	—	2
Faryab	49	Maimana	1	1
Badghis	3	Qala Nau	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	12	Herat	1	2
Farah	6	Farah	1	1
(Nimruz)		(Zaranj)		
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	6	Bamiyan	3	—
Ghor	4	Chagcharan	—	—
Uruzgan	—	Tarin Kot	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent Provinces				
Kabul	23	Kabul	3	2
Parwan	67	Charikar	6	5
Kapisa	—	Mahmud-i-Raqi	—	—
Laghman	4	Mehtarlam	—	—
Logar	8	Pule Alam	—	1
Wardak	2	Koteasro	1	—
TOTAL:	488		40	18

APPENDIX — 4

MUJAHIDEEN MOBILE & IMMOBILE TARGETS AND SOVIET-KABUL OPERATIONS IN MARCH 1987 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Mujahideen Targets		Soviet-Kabul Operations Air & Ground	Total
	Mobile	Immobile		
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	—	—	1	1
Hilmand	6	1	—	7
Qandahar	18	25	16	59
Zabul	1	1	—	2
Ghazni	4	8	5	17
Paktika	7	1	5	13
Paktiya	14	14	20	48
Ningarhar	8	19	8	35
Kunar	3	5	2	10
Boardering USSR				
Badakhshan	3	5	5	13
Takhar	3	—	6	9
Kunduz	6	5	13	24
Baghlan	1	2	5	8
Samangan	8	4	—	12
Balkh	4	8	1	13
Jozjan	13	4	16	33
Faryab	13	18	18	49
Badghis	1	1	1	3
Bordering Iran				
Herat	4	8	—	12
Farah (Nimruz)	4	1	1	6
Central Afghanistan				
Bamiyan	—	6	—	6
Ghor	3	—	1	4
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent Provinces				
Kabul	4	11	8	23
Parwan	22	28	15	67
Kapisa	—	2	—	—
Laghman	2	1	1	4
Logar	2	5	1	8
Wardak	1	1	—	2
TOTAL:	155	184	149	488

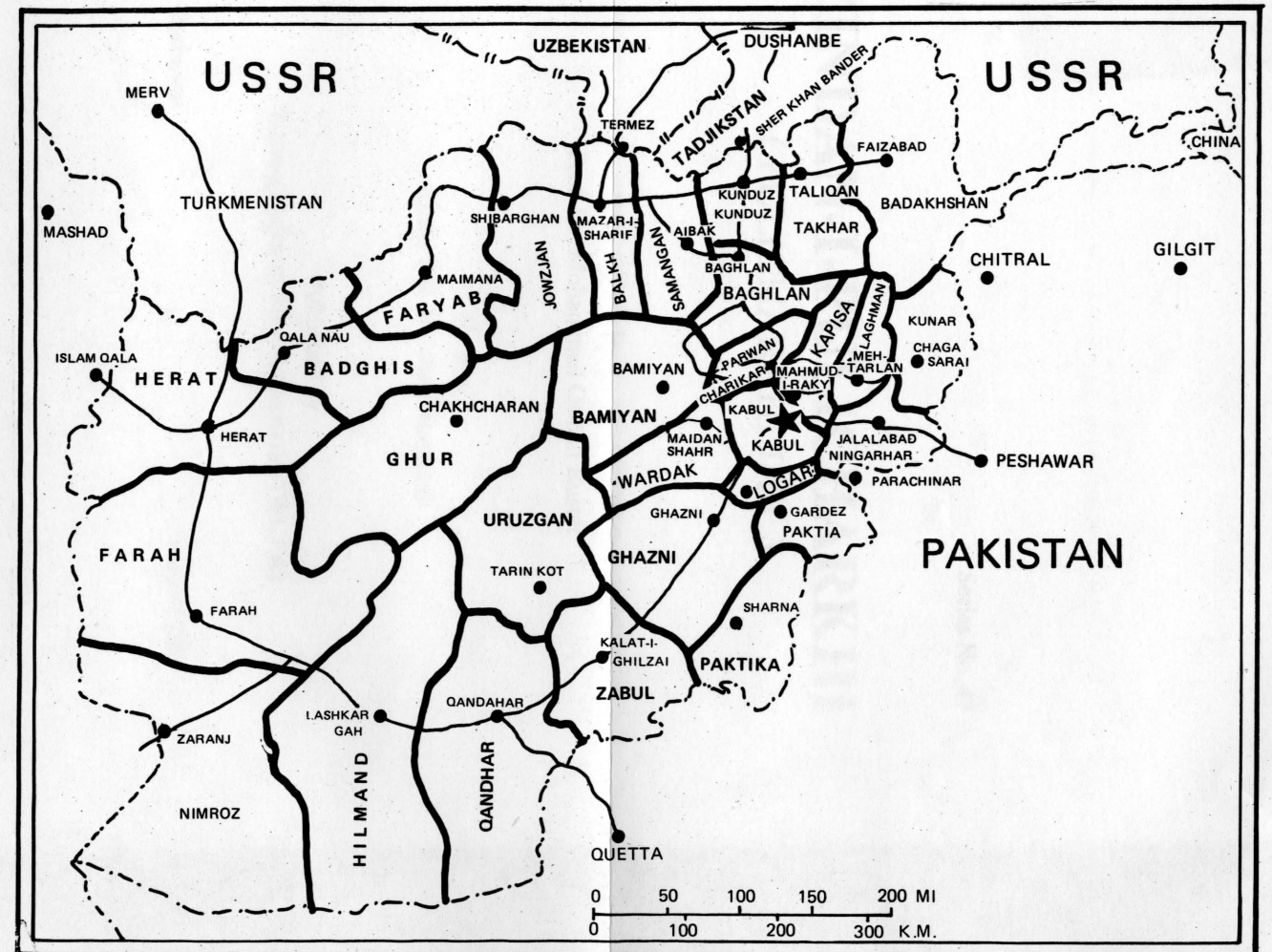
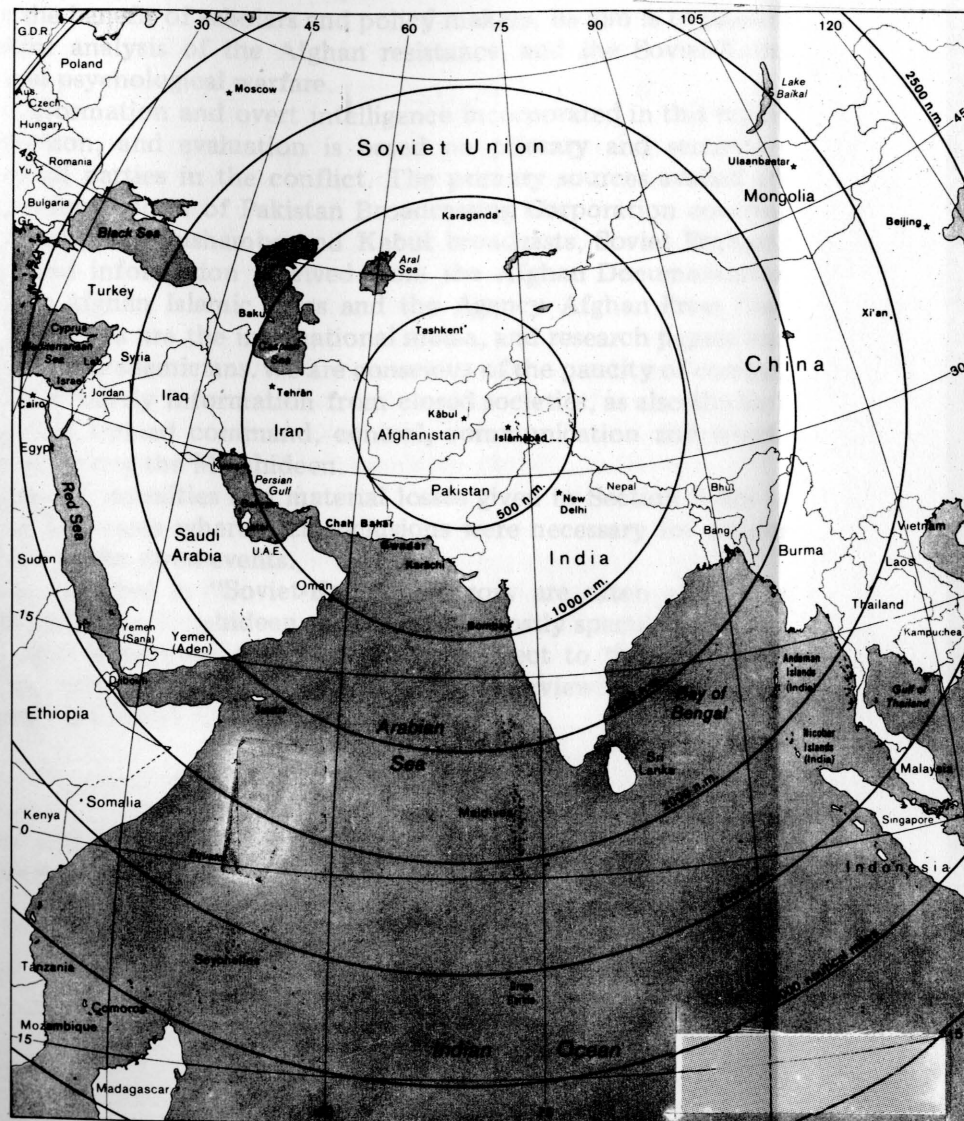
APPENDIX — 5

PROVINCEWISE SOVIET-KABUL SECURITY OPERATIONS AND RETURNEES IN MARCH 1987 (Radio Kabul)

Provinces	Soviet- Kabul Operations	Counter- Revolu- tionaries Action	R e t u r n e e s	
			Total Reports	Numbers
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	—	—	1	500
Hilmand	—	—	—	—
Qandahar	1	31	—	—
Zabul	—	1	—	—
Ghazni	—	—	3	1163
Paktika	—	—	—	—
Paktiya	—	—	4	1280
Ningarhar	—	—	10	4236
Kunar	—	—	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	—	—	—	—
Takhar	—	—	1	70
Kunduz	—	—	1	18
Baghlan	—	—	3	270
Samangan	—	—	2	45
Balkh	—	—	—	—
Jozjan	—	—	5	313
Faryab	—	—	4	250
Badghis	—	—	1	35
Bordering Iran				
Herat	—	—	5	816
Farah	—	—	2	310
(Nimruz)				
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	—	—	—
Ghor	—	—	1	60
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent Provinces				
Kabul	2	—	5	1169
Parwan	—	—	1	1
Kapisa	—	—	1	55
Laghman	—	—	1	160
Logar	—	—	—	—
Wardak	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:	3	32	51	10,751 (in 18 provinces)



APPENDIX — VI A



Mujahideen sources: Conflict reported during March 1987 in all 29 provinces of Afghanistan *except* Uruzgan.

Radio Kabul: Soviet-Kabul security operations reported in Qandahar, Zabul and Kabul.

NOTES

The monthly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy-makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, and the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Soviet Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, The Afghan Islamic Press and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in Section 3 are in only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

Losses reported in "Soviet-Kabul" category are often physically not verifiable by the Mujahideen and therefore mostly speculative.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, when possible, which includes interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during March 1-31, 1987.

II.— THE POLITICO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1 — FOREIGN VISITS AND AGREEMENTS

Messages

Messages on various occasions were sent to, received from and exchanged with the following countries and organizations: Bangladesh, Czechoslovakia, India, Pakistan, Palestine Liberation Organization, Syria, United Nations Organization, United States of America, Union of Socialist Soviet Republics and Vietnam.

Bulgaria

A consignment of 12 tons relief goods including cloth, sports goods and children toys etc. was received from Bulgaria for the Afghan repatriates. The Bulgarian Ambassador to Kabul handed over the related documents of the aid of March 8, 1987 to the President of General Department for Repatriates of the DRA (*KNT*, 9 March).

Cyprus

Habib Mangal, DRA Ambassador to Moscow was also designated as non-resident DRA Ambassador to Nicosia. This is for the first time that the diplomatic relations between the two countries were established at the level of Ambassador (*KNT*, 25 March).

Czechoslovakia

The work plan on cooperation for 1987-88 between the journalists unions of the DRA and Czechoslovakia was signed in Kabul on March 17, 1987. According to the Plan, based on the protocol on cooperation between the two unions for 1987-90, both the sides will cooperate in training of the cadres and exchange visits of the journalists. The Czech side will also provide equipment for the club of the Afghan Journalists' Union and facilities for treatment and rest of the Afghan journalists in Czechoslovakia (*KNT*, 18 March).

India

Justice (Retd) V.R. Krishna Lyer, President of the Lawyers Union of India, heading a two-member lawyers delegation visited Kabul from March 12 to 19, 1987 and signed a protocol on cooperation between the Lawyers' Unions of the two countries. Mr. Krishna also gave an

interview to a correspondent of the daily **Kabul New Times**, Kabul, in which, he suspected Pakistan for having the know how and immediate capability to manufacture a nuclear bomb. He also blamed Pakistan for helping the terrorists in Punjab (India) with the cooperation of USA and damaging the good trade relations between Afghanistan and India. About the so-called military build-up of Pakistan, Krishna said:

"All the sophisticated weapons given to Pakistan by the United States cannot match India's capability. This is one of the punishments of history on Americans that they must waste their resources somehow or other" (*KNT*, 14, 22 March and Radio Kabul, 12 March).

Pakistan

Ataullah Maingal the former Chief Minister of Baluchistan, Pakistan and a Baluchi leader arrived Kabul on March 9, 1987. At the airport, he was received by Dr. Saleh Mohammad Zeary and Noor Ahmad Noor, Members of the PDPA CC Politburo, Deputy Ministers and other high officials of the Nationalities and Tribes Affairs Ministry, Ajmal Khattak, some Baluch and tribal elders and students residing in Kabul.

Mr. Maingal, called on Dr. Najib twice—March 9 and 17, 1987. During his meeting with Abdul Rahim Hatif, Chairman of the DRA National Front on March 10, 1987 while the latter explained the activities of the Front for mobilizing and uniting all tribes and nationalities of Afghanistan, Mr. Maingal underlined the "Afghan-Baluch fraternal relations and their common struggles against the enemies" and wished for further consolidation of the ties (*KNT*, 10, 18 March).

Geneva Talks

Abdul Wakil, DRA Minister of Foreign Affairs, who had led his country's delegation to the Geneva Proximity Talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan on solution of 'issues around Afghanistan', returned Kabul on March 11, 1987. In his interview to the Bakhtar Information Agency on return, Abdul Wakil said that the political flexibility of the Afghan side alone could not achieve the final objective as the other side was also required to contribute its share to reaching a comprehensive political accord. He maintained that the DRA would continue to devote maximum efforts, as in the past, for seeking a comprehensive political settlement (*KNT*, 14 March).

Syria

A protocol on cooperation and exchange of information between the Bakhtar Information Agency (BIA) of DRA and the SANA News

Agency of Syria was signed in Damascus on March 18, 1987 by Abdul Jalil Purshor, DRA Ambassador to Syria and Sabir Faklot, President of the Syrian News Agency on behalf of the news agencies of their respective countries (*KNT*, 19 March).

USSR

An agreement on delivery of instruments etc. for the veterinary laboratories was signed in Kabul on March 9, 1987 by Guldad, Deputy Chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and P.P. Mozhaev, Soviet Ambassador on behalf of their respective countries. According to the agreement, valid for 1987-90, the Soviet Union will continue to provide instruments, medicines, other needed material and expertise services to Afghanistan for the veterinary and collective laboratories, established with that country's assistance. The goods and equipment of the Soviet Veterinary exhibition, held in Kabul during January-February 1987 were also gifted to Afghanistan.

An agreement on the establishment of two joint Soviet-Afghan trading companies, named Aftorg and Aftinto were signed in Kabul on March 9, 1987. The initial capital of each company was said to be 200 million Afghanis, of which 40% and 60% shares would be held by the Soviet Union and Afghans respectively. Documents to the effect were signed by the President of Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries and the representatives of the Soviet firms Vostogintorg and Tekhnu-intorg on behalf of their respective countries (*KNT*, 10 March).

A protocol on cooperation between the Writers' Union of Soviet Union and Afghanistan was signed in Kabul on March 12, 1987 by Dastagir Panjsheri, President of the DRA Writers' Union and Yuri Virchenko, Secretary of the Presidium of the Soviet Writers Union on behalf of their respective Unions (*KNT*, 14 March).

According to a contract, signed in Kabul on March 18, 1987 between the Government of the DRA and Soviet Union, the natural gas mine at Yateen Taq (Jauzjan Province) will be constructed and equipped with the assistance of the Soviet Union. Work on the project will be commenced in June 1987 and was expected to be completed in a period of 14 months. Out of the total estimated expenditure valued at 21 million roubles, 15 million roubles will be met from the Soviet credit and the remaining from the state development budget (*KNT*, 19 March).

Sostinko, Deputy Chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Press and Publications heading a delegation arrived Kabul on March 23, 1987 and signed a protocol on cooperation between the State Committees for Press and Publication of the two countries.

A 3-member Afghan delegation, including Gen. Nazar Mohammad, 1st Deputy Chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, Mohammad Aziz, Deputy Chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and President of the State Committee for Planning and Mohammad Kabir, Minister of Finance visited Soviet Union from March 25 to 27, 1987 on 'a working visit'.

Under an agreement, signed in Kabul on March 23, 1987 by the DRA Minister of Higher and Vocational Education and the Economic Counsellor of the Soviet Embassy, the Soviet Union will give 6 million roubles to Afghanistan as assistance for Industrial and Agricultural Schools in Kabul, Kunduz and Lashkargah.

A protocol has been signed by the Kabul and Soviet Governments at Kabul on 23 March, 1987 under which Soviet Union would establish a number of technical schools and vocational training centres in various parts of Afghanistan during the next five years. Some of the technical institutions will be established at Mazar-e-Sharif and other towns which are on the border of Russia.

Minister for Vocational Training, Burhan Ghaiazi and Financial Attache of the Russian Embassy at Kabul, Mr. Alexander signed the protocol (The Nation, Pakistan 26 March).

At the request of the DRA Government, the Soviet Union will provide services of a Soviet team alongwith necessary equipment and pesticides for a period of two months to assist Afghanistan in her anti-locust campaign, to be carried out in the northern parts of the country.

Zimbabwe

The Government of DRA and Zimbabwe agreed to establish diplomatic relations at Embassy level from March 31, 1987 (BBC: 31 March, 1987).

2 — POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Periodic Session of the PDPA CC Politburo

The PDPA CC Politburo held a periodic session on March 12, 1987 wherein the following points were discussed and decisions taken thereon:—

- (i) Assessment of the result of the fulfilment of indices of complex plan of expansion and consolidation of local organs of state power and administration in 1365 (1986-87) and the complex plan for 1366 (1987-88).
- (ii) Evaluation of the activities of the Executive Committee of the Council of People's deputies of Kunar Province.

- (iii) Assessment of the work of press in the conditions of National Reconciliation.
- (iv) Review of the process of the reception of and meeting with people by the party and State leadership at Dilkusha Palace, Kabul and in provinces.
- (v) Approval of the proposal for sending 1500 Afghan children to the Central Asian Republics of the Soviet Union for short term rest and recreation.
- (vi) Approval of the establishment of a publishing institution for publications in foreign languages.
- (vii) Approval to the publication of magazine 'Voice of People' as publicity organ of the extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation.
- (viii) Report by Dr. Anahita Ratebzad, member PDPA CC Politburo and President of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of Afghanistan (PSFO) on her participation in session of the World Peace Council in Lisbon.
- (ix) Report by Farid Ahmad Mazdak, alternate member PDPA CC Politburo and First Secretary of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan (DYOYA) on participation of DYOYA delegation in the first session of the International Preparatory Committee for 13th Students and Youth World Festival in Moscow (*KNT*, 14 March).

Periodic Session of the DRA RC Presidium

On March 9, 1987 a periodic session of the DRA RC Presidium was held wherein the following points were discussed and decisions taken thereon:—

- (i) Discussion on new labour law.
- (ii) Endorsement of formation of Election Commission in some districts of Kabul, Wardak and Paktia Provinces.
- (iii) Approval of orders and medals to a number of officers and soldiers of Balkh garrison.
- (iv) Pardon to a number of prisoners (*KNT*, 10 March).

DRA RC Presidium Decrees

In the process of implementation of the National Reconciliation Programme, the DRA RC Presidium issued the following decrees during the month of March 1987:—

- (a) *Decree on debt relief to the Peasants.* The Decree provides waiving off of interests and penalties on loan of the Agriculture Development Bank, outstanding against the individual

peasants and members of the agriculture cooperatives. The principal amount of the loan will be recovered in instalments during three years period (*KNT*, 15 March).

- (b) *Decree on repatriate property*. The decree lays down procedure for the return of repatriate's property including residence, industrial unit, foreign currencies, shares in banks and companies, which was nationalized, taken under Government management or ownership suspended due to absence of the owner or non-payment of dues and non-compliance with obligations, to the owners or his legal representatives (*Radio Moscow*, 23 March and *BBC*, 23 March).
- (c) *Decree on tax exemption for repatriates*. The decree provides exemption from payment of all types of taxes/fees on property, commerce transport etc. and fines thereupon by the repatriates, returning to the country under National Reconciliation Programme (*KNT*, 25 March and *AFP* quoting *Moscow* 25 March).

Holding of Meetings/Congresses

With a view to carrying forward the National Reconciliation Programme, the following seminar/meetings/congresses were held during the month of March 1987, which were participated in and addressed by various high-ups of the Party and Government. The theme of all the speeches was, in general, focussed on the role and duties of the participants in implementation of the programme, a new way for attracting the people towards revolutionary power, achieving peace and security in the country and building a new prosperous society:—

- (a) First countrywide seminar of the secretaries of village primary Party Organizations at the Social Sciences Institute of PDPA CC, Kabul on March 13-14, 1987, as addressed by Dr. Najib, Noor Ahmad Noor and Najamuddin Kawyani, Secretaries of PDPA CC (*KNT*, 14 March).
- (b) Session of the preparatory Supreme Commission for holding elections to Local Organs of State Power and Administration in the Council of Ministers' held on March 14, 1987 as addressed by Sultan Ali Keshtmand, Chairman DRA Council of Ministers (*KNT*, 15 March).
- (c) Second Congress of the creative intellectuals in Kabul on March 15, 1987 as addressed by Dr. Najib and Abdul Rahim Hatif, Chairman, DRA National Front and President of the Supreme Commission for National Reconciliation etc. (*Radio Kabul*, 15 March).

- (d) Second Congress of the DRA Journalists Union in Kabul held on March 15, 1987 as addressed by Dr. Najib and Abdullah Shadan, Secretary of the Union (Radio Kabul, 15 March and *KNT*, 16 March).
- (e) Second Congress of the DRA Writers Union (renamed as Writers Association of Afghanistan) held in Kabul on March 15, 1987 as addressed by Sultan Ali Keshtmand and Dastagir Panjsheri, President of the Union (Radio Kabul, 15 March and *KNT*, 16 March).
- (f) Second Congress of the DRA Artists Union held in Kabul on March 15, 1987 as addressed by Noor Ahmad Noor, Member PDPA CC (Radio Kabul, 15 March and *KNT*, 16 March).
- (g) Seminar of the Political and Ideological activists of the Kabul garrison held on March 25, 1987 as addressed by Maj Gen. Mohammad Rāfi, DRA Minister of Defence (*KNT*, 27 March).

Appointments

The DRA RC Presidium approved the following promotions/appointments in DRA Council of Ministers (Cabinet) on March 12, 1987:—

- (a) *Eng. Ghulam Farooq Kabakiwal*. Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Land Reforms as Minister of Agriculture and Land Reforms.
- (b) *Dr. Sher Bahadur*. President of the Hospital of the Ministry of State Security as Minister of Public Health.
- (c) *Bashir Ahmed Roigar*. Vice-Chairman of the State Committee for Radio, TV and Cinematography as Chairman of the same committee (Radio Kabul, 12 March, *KNT*, 14 March and BBC: 13 March, 1987).

Human Rights in Afghanistan

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil has reportedly said that his government will allow the special United Nations envoy to travel the Afghanistan and investigate alleged violations of human rights. Afghanistan it is said previously rejected requests for such visits saying it was an interference in the internal affairs of the country (VOA, 4 March).

Afghan Government Release Prominent Professor Hassan Karrar

In Afghanistan, a prominent intellectual, Prof. Hassan Karrar has been released. He was sentenced to eight-year imprisonment for being involved in anti-revolution activities, but was set free after completing

half of imprisonment term. Prof. Karrar's daughter who is living in exile in Pakistan said that her father was released two weeks ago and that he was in his house in Kabul. She said that he was in quite good health.

BBC correspondent reports that Prof. Karrar's continuous detention was a cause of embarrassment for the Afghan Government and his release will be construed as a part of Government's reconciliatory policy (BBC, 18 March).

Prisoners Released

It is claimed by the Kabul authorities that with the implementation of National Reconciliation Programme about 4,000 political prisoners have been released since mid-January onwards (Radio Kabul, 9 March).

Defence — Recruitment/Release Under New Conscription Law

On March 10, 1987 the DRA Minister of Defence issued the following orders in respect of recruitment and release of sergeants and soldiers of the units under the new conscription law, promulgated on February 22, 1987:—

- (a) Recruitment to the military service be carried out daily. All those persons be recruited who are more than 18 years of age and who have not performed the compulsory Military Service as yet due to one or other reason.
- (b) All the Military Commissariate, from Provincial to District level, are obliged to organise the conscription under the new law.
- (c) The commandants of the units and incharges of the institutions are obliged to commence the release of all those sergeants and soldiers, who have completed the tenure of their conscription/reserved service in the units, with effect from March 15, 1987. In future release be made during the last 10 days of each month.
- (d) Release be made in functions and the released personnel explained the procedure of registration in the concerned Military Commissariate.

3 — NATIONALITIES POLICY

Holding of Jirgas/Meetings by the Party and State High-Ups

The process of holding Jirgas/Meetings of the pro-regime elders and elements by the Party and state high-ups for ascertaining their

support and cooperation in the implementation of the National Reconciliation Programme, was continued during the month of March, 1987. The following were notable jirgas/meetings amongst those which were addressed by Dr. Najib, Haji Mohammad Chamkani and other high-ups:

(a) *Jirgas Addressed by Dr. Najib*

- (i) Jirga of elders of Zadran, Mangal, Jaji, Samkani, Ahmadzai, Gardezi and Zurmati tribes of Paktia province at Delkusha Palace, Kabul on March 7, 1987 (*KNT*, 8 March).
- (ii) Jirga of elders of Dawlatzai tribe, Kabul province at Delkusha Palace, Kabul on March 9, 1987 (Radio Kabul, 9 March).
- (iii) Jirga of elders of Jaji, Mangal, Zadran, Ahmadzai, Tota Khel, Gardezi, Zurmati, Moqbel and Chamkani tribes of Paktia province at Delkusha Palace, Kabul on March 14, 1987 (Radio Moscow, 15 March).

(b) *Jirgas Addressed by Haji Mohammad Chamkani*

- (i) Jirga of elders of Khost Loe-Woleswali, Paktia province at RC Headquarters, Kabul on March 8, 1987 (Radio Kabul, 8 March).
- (ii) Jirga of elders of Para-Chamkani and Orakzai tribes of Pakistan at Gulkhana Palace, Kabul on March 10, 1987 (Radio Kabul, 13 March).
- (iii) Jirga of elders of Mangal, Zadran, Ahmadzai and Jaji tribes of Paktia province at Gulkhana Palace, Kabul on March 11, 1987 (*KNT*, 12 March).
- (iv) Jirga of elders of various tribes of Paktia province at Gulkhana Palace, Kabul on March 16, 1987 (*KNT*, 17 March).
- (v) Jirga of elders of various tribes of Paktia province at Gulkhana Palace, Kabul on March 17, 1987 (*KNT*, 18 March).
- (vi) Jirga of elders of Panjsher district (Parwan province) at Gulkhana Palace, Kabul on March 18, 1987 (*KNT*, 19 March).
- (vii) Jirga of elders of Ahmadzai, Stanekzai, Abdul Rehimzai, Taghar, Tajik, Khwaja and Sayed tribes of Logar province at RC Headquarters, Kabul on March 22, 1987 (Radio Kabul, 24 March).
- (viii) Jirga of elders of Andarab district (Baghlan province) at Gulkhana Palace, Kabul on March 26, 1987 (*KNT*, 27 March).

(c) *Meetings Addressed by other High-Ups*

- (i) Meeting of residents of Maidan Shahr, capital of Wardak Province on March 2, 1987 addressed by Zohar Razmjo, alternate member of PDPA CC Politburo and Secretary Party Committee of Kabul city (*KNT*, 3 March).
- (ii) Meeting of elders of Farah province at provincial capital on March 29, 1987, addressed by Dr. Saleh Mohammad Zeary, Member PDPA CC Politburo (*KNT*, 30 March).
- (iii) Meeting of elders of Ghazni province at provincial capital on March 29, 1987 addressed by Abdul Rashid Arian, Vice-President DRA RC (*KNT*, 30 March).
- (iv) Meeting of teachers of Khost Loe Uluswali, Paktia province on March 29, 1987 addressed by Mir Sahib Karwal, Alternate Member of PDPA CC Politburo (Radio Kabul, 23 March).

AAWC — International Women's Day

International Women's Day was marked on March 8, 1987. A function held in Zenab Cinema, Kabul by the All Afghanistan Women's Council (AAWC) was participated in, amongst others, by Dr. Najib and Prime Minister Keshtmand. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Najib highlighted the role of Afghan women in all national crises in the past and hoped that they would perform their 'special important role' in the successful implementation of the National Reconciliation Policy at present too. Dr. Najib added that this policy was the basic condition to involve the people's power for the radical reconstruction of the society and that it was irreversible (*KNT*, 9 March).

All Afghanistan Women Council (AAWC) has over 94,816 members. The council has set up 1,700 residential area councils, 28 provincial councils, 28 city councils and 65 districts and sub-district councils since its establishment.

There are 9,490 workers, 3,334 peasants, 1,087 artisans, 22,306 intellectuals, 2,476 students, 20,539 teachers and 20,445 house-wives among the members of the AAWC. The organization was established in HS 1344 (1965) under the name of Women Democratic Organization of Afghanistan (WDOA). It was renamed as AAWC in 1986. About 18,461 women have been mobilized in literacy courses by the AAWC. Of them, 3,854 women completed the courses (*KNT*, 8 March).

Religion — Ghazni Elders Ulema Support Efforts for Realization of National Reconciliation Policy

The elders, clergy and ulema of seventy-four villages of Ghazni

province in a vast gathering on March 28, pledged their all assurance to the party and state on the efforts aimed at realization of the national reconciliation policy. The gathering started with the recitation of few verses from Holy Quran after which Abdul Rashid Arian, Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in a speech elaborated upon the national reconciliation policy and the ceasefire declared by the party and state and asked for the cooperation of the inhabitants of Ghazni province in the realization of this policy in accordance with the principles of the sacred religion of Islam. Afterwards several ulema and clergy expressed their proposals in connection with the joining of opposition groups to the policy of national reconciliation and the removal of their local problems expressed their full readiness towards the realization of national reconciliation policy aimed at secession of bloodshed and war as well assurance of countrywide peace (Radio Kabul, 30 March).

Similarly more than fifty members of Ulema and clergymen of Bamiyan district of Hilmand province, who for some times were co-operating with the extremist groups recently contacted the party and state authorities of Hilmand province and expressed readiness to join the process of National Reconciliation (Radio Kabul 26 March).

Returnees

In an interview to the Soviet Television, Dr. Najibullah said that 35,000 refugees had returned home since mid-January 1987. Najib compared this figure with 37,000 refugees who what he claimed, had returned during the last 8 years.

He also claimed that 10,000 Afghan insurgents have surrendered to the government and 19,000 other engaged in peace talks with the government. This number represents half of the anti-government forces, he said, adding that "the process of national reconciliation has become irreversible". According to Western estimates, there are some three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and 1.5 million in Iran, the only countries except the Soviet Union which have borders with Afghanistan.

Mr. Najibullah said that since mid-January, the ceasefire had only been broken by government forces "on the decision of the high committee for reconciliation, and in response to those who were trying to send in convoys laydown with arms from outside the country, or trying to set-up secret bases for counter-revolution on our territory".

Mr. Najibullah appealed to the United States to stop aiding anti-government groups "and urged International Organizations looking

after refugees" to send observers to Afghanistan to "see how (those who return) are treated".

With the declaration of the National Reconciliation several committees and organizations have been formed to canvass and convince the people in the farflung areas for a general reconciliation and to patch up difference and rifts among various sections of the people and to make necessary preparations to extend every facility to the Afghan refugees returning to their homes. The revolutionary government has also made all preparations to welcome their brothers (AFP, 19 March and Radio Kabul, 25 March).

Financial Assistance to Returnees

The returnees have been financially helped. The amount is more than one lakh and fifty thousand dollars and 75 million Afghanis, besides financial help they are given other necessities of life. Thousands of Afghanis have been collected from the public and were given to the refugees (Radio Kabul, 8 March).

Meetings for National Reconciliation Programme

Meetings in support of the national reconciliation programme were held in a number of the provinces of Afghanistan which were attended by thousand of people from all walks of life. They also announced to contribute to the funds for the returning refugees. Workers of several industrial organizations contributed 700,000 Afghanis to the bank account of the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission (Radio Moscow, 14 March).

4 — ECONOMY

Contract Signed

A 21 million roubles contract was signed on 18th of March for the construction and equipment of yateemtaq natural gas mines by the DRA and the Soviet Union. Under the contract, the work will start in June and will be completed in 14 months. 15 million roubles will be provided through Soviet credit and the remaining from the state development budget (KNT, 19 March).

Private Sector

According to the decisions taken by the Council of Ministers for Private Investment, four mixed projects such as leather production, hide and intestine processing and weaving were endorsed with an initial

capital of 601 million Afghanis, and maximum capital of 3,640 million Afghanis. Similarly three projects of private sector in Skin and Intestine processing, string and sayon production with a total capital of 210 million Afghanis were approved. All Machines and Equipments for the projects would be prepared from the Soviet credit. In the current month the number of the approved projects utilizing the credit of USSR in the fields of light industry and foodstuff exceeds 12 (*KNT*, 22 March).

During the years of the revolution Afghan National Bank had given a credit of Afghanis 6835.08 million, Pashtany Tajaraty Bank over Afghanis 16 million, Export Development Bank Afghanis 17.833 billion and the Industrial Development Bank Afghanis 1.501 billion on easy terms to private entrepreneurs (*KNT*, 31 March) (The New Afghan Year HS 1366 will begin, on March 20th).

Since the April revolution till the end of last Afghan year, state has approved 339 projects in the private sector (*KNT*, 31 March).

A spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce said that an agreement on the establishment of two Afghan-Soviet trading companies named Aftorg and Aftinto was signed on 9th of March in Kabul. These companies will begin working in Kabul with an initial capital of 200 million Afghanis (*KNT*, 8-10 March).

Light Industry

The Ministry of Light Industry and Food has produced and supplied adequate quantities of flour, bakery products, cotton, rayon and woollen cloths, furniture, cooking oil, soap and other items valued at 8,150 million Afghanis through 29 factories, state and joint production units last year (HS 1365) which shows an increase of 24% as compared to previous year (*KNT*, 23 March).

A private plastic factory with an investment of five million Afghanis was inaugurated on 25th March in the industrial estate of Dasht-i-Shadian, Mazar-i-Sharif (*KNT*, 26 March).

Bakhtar Bicycle Factory is to be established in Pulicharkhi industrial estate this year with an annual production capacity of 40,000 bicycles. The factory will start its activities with an initial capital of 25 million Afghanis. Soviet Union will provide machine and equipment for the factory under long term loans (*KNT*, 9 March).

Constructions

A spokesman of the Ministry of Construction stated that the construction plan for last year was fully implemented. Twenty projects of

rural development costing Afghanis 765 million, 78 projects of other ministries costing Afghanis 100 million have been implemented. He added, "despite the hardships of war and the subversive activities which created serious obstacles to supply of material and equipment, we have been able to achieve the target" (*KNT*, 26 March).

Export

In the last year 8,589 tons of medicinal plants were exported, mainly to India, Japan and USA. Export target this year is 11,000 tons (*KNT*, 29 March).

Handicraft Promotion Centre of Afghanistan has earned 294,000 this year from the exports of handicrafts and their sales in the local market (*KNT*, 12 March).

Agriculture — Cultivation

A spokesman of the Ministry of Agriculture and Reforms said that "an area of 3.840 million hectares was cultivated during the last economic year with different crops registering an increase of six thousand hectares over the proceeding year. According to the reports, a growth of two thousand tons each was recorded in sugarcane and oil crops, while vegetable and melon production was augmented by 57,000 tons and of potatoes by 33,000 tons. During the outgoing year 145 thousand tons of chemical fertilizers 16,000 tons of wheat seeds, 5,598 tons of vegetable seeds and pesticide and insecticide were distributed in the Spring and Autumn sowing campaigns to peasants, state farms and agricultural cooperatives. In this year a quantity of 33.3 thousand tons of chemical fertilizers 10,000 tons of wheat seeds and 30 tons of sugar beets were also given by the Soviet Union as gratis aid to our country" (*KNT*, 19 March).

Over 132,000 hectares of land will be sown in the coming Spring campaign with wheat, barely, cotton and cereals in Balkh province (*KNT*, 15 March).

It is estimated that over 287,000 hectares are to be cultivated with wheat, barely, cotton, sugar beet, paddy, corn, potato and vegetables in the Spring sowing campaign (March 5th to April 30th) of this year, on 1,555,200 hectares of irrigated and 531,800 non-irrigated land (*KNT*, 10 March).

In the last Afghan year Agricultural Development Bank lent 216 million Afghanis as agricultural loans for the purchase of fertilizers, improved wheat seeds, pesticides, tractors, water pumps etc, on easy terms to cooperatives, farmers. The bank's total income was about 236 million Afghanis in the year (*KNT*, 19 March).

Cooperatives

A spokesman of the Agriculture Department of Ningarhar province said that the cooperative movement is expanding in the province and now 54 agricultural cooperatives with 8925 members are cultivating 8100 hectares of land. Besides this 19 consumer cooperatives and one confectionary cooperative with a membership of 5687 persons are operating in the province (*KNT*, 16 March).

The total number of consumer goods cooperatives in Baghlan is 5 in addition to two peasants cooperatives with a total membership of 3,950 which supply essential goods at a lesser price than that of markets, to its members (*KNT*, 25 March).

Forty-five new Agricultural Cooperatives were established during the last year and now in the country the number of cooperatives reaches 460 with a membership of 67,700. As credit to cooperative members, a sum of 90 million Afghanis were given (*KNT*, 19 March).

Twenty-three consumer and handicraft cooperatives were set-up last year in Herat province. The total number of members reach now to 11,000 of which 1321 are women. They are organized in 53 consumer and handicraft cooperatives. From these cooperatives 5,940 members have joined revolution defence groups and tribal regiments of their villages (*KNT*, 23 March).

A consumers cooperative with 121 members has been set-up in Asmar district of Kunar province (*KNT*, 9 March).

Three consumers and one handicraft cooperatives with 960 members have recently been set-up in Baghlan, Kunduz, Takhar and Faryab provinces (*KNT*, 2 March).

A consumer goods cooperative has been set-up in Khenjan sub-district of Baghlan province.

An agricultural cooperative named "peace" has been set-up in Tap-e-Shiran village centre of Farah province (*KNT*, 25 March).

5 — EDUCATION, YOUTH AND HEALTH

Education

A cooperation agreement was signed on 23 March between the Minister of Higher and Vocational Education and the Economic Counsellor of Soviet Embassy, under which the USSR will provide 6 million roubles assistance to the Industrial and Agricultural Schools in Kabul, Kunduz and Lashkargah (*KNT*, 24 March).

This year 264 students graduated in general medicine and 17 students in stomatology from state Medical Institute. 127 students graduated from the faculty of medicine of Ningarhar province. 292

students graduated from para-medical institute (*KNT*, 19 March).

Kabul Pedagogical Institute has 1400 students and a strength of 105 Afghan and foreign professors and lecturers. The Institute sends every year some teachers to friendly countries for higher education. Thirty teachers are now studying abroad, 10 more teachers will be sent this year. This Institute maintains close relations with the Educational Institute of Soviet Union (*KNT*, 24 March).

There is an addition of 104 new schools and now the numbers of schools in Afghanistan reaches to 1220 which are accommodating 730,000 students with 625,000 enrolled in primary and 105,000 in intermediate schools. The growth rate under the new education system is 3.2 per cent. The number of teachers in general education is now 23,100. Special attention was paid to religious schools and madarasas, and now with an enrolment of 1520 new students, the total number reached 5,760 (*KNT*, 25 March).

A source of Parwan education department said that the enrolment of school children in the current year will increase by 20 per cent over last year's registration. This year 561 teachers will teach 18,542 students in the province (*KNT*, 12 March).

The Ministry of Education has newly admitted 138,000 students in capital and provinces of the country. Ministry of Education said, the number of schools in HS 1365 reached 1236 with 700,554 students and 22,129 teachers. In next Afghan year the number of schools will come to 1300 and the number of teachers to 775,000 (*KNT*, 5 March)*.

Extensive work for Child Care has been carried out by the Ministry of Education in capital and provinces during the eleven months of current year. According to a report 18,000 children are enrolled in kindergartens (*KNT*, 4 March).

For the new academic year 170 text books in 60 million copies have been produced by the Ministry of Education's Compilation and Translation Department. These books are on mathematics, sociology, linguistics and theology (*KNT*, 1 March).

Inauguration

An industrial technical school was opened in Kabul on 23rd March with the assistance of Soviet Union which aims at training the cadres for technical schools (*KNT*, 24 March).

A new vocational school was opened on 29th March in Qala-e-Najara of Khair Khana Mena. This is the 12th school set-up by literacy department in Kabul city (*KNT*, 30 March).

*Data has some contradictions with the news appeared in *KNT*, 25 March.

A new school was opened on March 18 in Qala-i-Shada, area of Kabul city. This school can accommodate 1,000 students in two shifts.

Another new school was opened in Hazara-i-Baghal area in Kabul city which can accommodate 720 students in two shifts (*KNT*, 19 March).

A primary school was inaugurated in Enjil district of Herat province (*KNT*, 2 March).

A new school is to be built for Hindu children in Lashkargah city of Hilmand province (*KNT*, 5 March).

Literacy

With the setting up of 3865 new literacy courses the total number of literacy courses reached 21,250 and enrolment 425,000. Last year 178,000 learners completed the courses registering an increase of 64.3 per cent compared to HS 1364 (9185-86).

It is said that the women of Wakhan district of Badakhshan province are increasingly drawn to literacy. 30 women of Yamit village, the remotest in the country are now attending a literacy course which was established one year ago. 35 women have passed the course since its establishment (*KNT*, 19 March).

Eight literacy courses with an enrol of over 120 have been started in Enjil district of Herat province. A spokesman of the literacy courses said, "now there are over 20,000 learners enrolled in 1040 literacy courses in the province (*KNT*, 18 March).

In the last Afghan year 205 literacy courses were set-up in Faryab province and 2,087 persons learnt to read and write. Now 353 literacy courses are functioning in the province and 5,340 literacy learners are enrolled in these courses. Teaching of these courses is carried out by 338 literacy teachers (*KNT*, 28 March).

In the last Afghan year 11,800 persons became literate in Balkh province. At present 18,318 learners are enrolled in 1,114 literacy courses carried out by 797 regular and volunteer teachers (*KNT*, 31 March).

Youth

The Publication Department of the DYO A has published 43 books with a circulations of 2,89,000 copies last year. It also issued 26 posters and numerous other publicity materials. This department has a plan to expand its activities this year. It intends to publish 20 books, 45 posters, brochurs and pamphlets among other things this year (*KNT*, 25 March).

A spokesman of the DYOAC said that during the winter vacation over 5,100 brigades activity took part in the work of different projects in capital and different provinces. They earned 34 million Afghanis and donated their one day salary totalling 150,000 Afghanis to the repatriates account (*KNT*, 26 March).

Two hundred and thirty youth of the districts of Faryab province voluntarily enlisted in the armed forces (*KNT*, 12 March).

Seventy-nine youth have voluntarily enlisted in Kabul city (*KNT*, 2 March).

Health

A 10-bed clinic was inaugurated on 2nd March in Rahman Mena, Kabul, by the Afghan Red Crescent Society (*KNT*, 3 March).

The foundation stone of a health centre was laid down on 10th of March in Badakhshan province. It will be built at a cost of Afghanis 9 million and is expected to be completed within three months time (*KNT*, 12 March).

A health clinic was opened on 16th of March in Gozar-e-Choghdk, Mazar-i-Sharif (*KNT*, 18 March).

The foundation stone of a polyclinic was laid down on 29th March by the Minister of Public Health in Nauabad of Pul-i-Charkhi. The building is to be completed within 19 months at a cost of 28 million Afghanis (*KNT*, 30 March).

A protocol on cooperation between the state committee for sports and physical training of the DRA and Hungarian sports committee was signed on 30th March under which sports teams will be exchanged and competitions will be held in the two countries, sports equipment will be provided by Hungarian committee (*KNT*, 31 March).

6 -- CULTURAL AND SOCIAL

Cultural

Najibullah laid the foundation stone of the new studios of television and radio complex on 15th March. This complex will be financed from the 10 million roubles credit of the USSR and 11.1 million dollar credit of the GDR. Its construction will be completed by the end of current five year plan (*KNT*, 16 March).

Two local TV stations, in Hilmand and Kunar provinces were inaugurated (*KNT*, 28 March).

"The Last Hope" a new colour TV feature film is under production these days. In the script of the film all characters live in peace and

friendship, they are honest defenders of the revolution who in harsh conditions build mosques, schools, hospitals and help peasants (*KNT*, 16 March).

Afghan Theatre staged 11 dramas and produced several children's play during last year. It staged dramas in schools, workers collectives, armed forces and Tsarandoy units, seen by over 50,000 spectators. "Towards Light" was its latest production which dealt with national reconciliation.

In the current year Afghan Theatre plants to stage 13 new dramas. Most of the new productions will have their theme in 'National Reconciliation in the country'. From the theatre 25 actors, directors and play-writers will be sent to Soviet Union for higher studies this year (*KNT*, 29 March).

The Writers Union published 117 different works of the contemporary writers and poets. According to the Publication Department of the Union, it published 45 poetry, 43 short story collections, 17 works for children etc. Besides Pushto and Dari books, the Union has published 10 books in the languages of national minorities such as Pashae, Baluchi, Uzbeki and Turkmani (*KNT*, 16 March).

The first issue of abi-weekly magazine 'Voice of Peace' published by the extraordinary Supreme Commission for National Reconciliation appeared in Kabul market (*KNT*, 12 March).

At the end of the second congress of Artists Union of the DRA, some decisions were taken to organize and increase patriotic cultural activities (*KNT*, 18 March).

Social — Relief Goods

Republic of Bulgaria has provided a 12 tons relief consignment for Afghan repatriates (*KNT*, 12 March).

Soviet aided relief goods which valued at 580 million Afghanis were distributed in the fourth quarter of the last Afghan year to deserving people of the different provinces of the country (*KNT*, 25 March).

Soviet aided consumer goods of over 13 million Afghanis have been distributed to the deserving families and repatriates through NR Commission and executive committee of the council of peoples deputies of Paktia province since the start of NR process (*KNT*, 30 March).

Najib presented gifts to 680 Imams of village mosques. He also ordered to render necessary assistance to the Imams so as to end the fratricide and establish nation-wide peace in the country (*KNT*, 17 March).

According to the Department of Islamic Affairs and Religious Trusts of the executive committee of the Council of People's Deputies

of Kabul province, 2,432,382 Afghanis were spent on the construction and repair of mosques in the province last year. Beside this 992,200 Afghanis were donated to Imams preachers and costodians of mosques and the families of martyred ulema and clergymen (*KNT*, 26 March).

According to a report private entrepreneurs in Balkh have donated 300,000 Afghanis and in Faryab 100,000 Afghanis to the repatriates fund (*KNT*, 29 March).

A cooperation protocol was signed on 13th March between the writers union of the DRA and the USSR (*KNT*, 14 March).

An international seminar was organized to celebrate 930th death anniversary of Hakim Nasir Khusraw Balkhi by the Academy of Sciences of the DRA which ended on 3rd of March (*KNT*, 4 March).

Over 800 women have been organized in the current Afghan year in 24 women councils of Hilmand province (*KNT*, 9 March).